



Cornell University  
Cooperative Extension  
Erie County



January 4, 2017

***Dear CCE Erie County Master Gardener Applicant:***

We are pleased to announce that classes to train new Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) *Master Gardener volunteers* in Erie County will be offered on Fridays, from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm, beginning February 24, 2017 and ending April 7, 2017. There may be slight changes to this schedule to accommodate certain speakers. Most classes will be held at the CCE offices in East Aurora, with the possibility of an occasion class session in the city.

The training classes provide six weeks of instruction followed by testing in key areas relevant to carrying out the duties of a CCE *Master Gardener volunteer* including Botany, Soils, Composting, Climate Change, Pest Identification and Management, Wildlife Management, Plant Diseases, Native Plants, Pruning and Lawn Care. To successfully complete the course, a score of at least 70% must be attained on the testing portion. Seven hands-on projects/events with site visits are also planned. Participation in at least three of the events is required. Once the training requirements are met, the Trainee becomes a Master Gardener Program Apprentice and must **complete 50 hours** of volunteer service for **each of the next two years to become an Active Program Volunteer**.

Selected course participants will pay a course fee of \$225. Class size is limited to 30. Each trainee is **expected to attend all training classes** with any missed sessions to be made up at the discretion of the supervising CCE Educator.

The enclosed information sheet “MGV - CCE Master Gardener Volunteers”, from Cornell Garden Based Learning, provides information about the Master Gardener Program and volunteer activities. Additional information about our local program can be found on-line at <http://erie.cce.cornell.edu/gardening> including our Master Gardener Program policy statements.

You are receiving this letter because you submitted your name to *Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County* indicating an interest in the Master Gardener Program. If you are still interested in this opportunity, please complete the attached Volunteer Application and Background Screening Authorization/Consent Form and mail to:

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County  
RE: 2017 Master Gardener Program Training  
21 South Grove Street; East Aurora NY 14052

***All paperwork must be received by the CCE office no later than January 20th, 2017 at 11:00 am. Please do not send payment for the class until you receive an acceptance letter!***

***Helping You Put Knowledge to Work***

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.

21 South Grove St.  
East Aurora, NY 14052  
(716)652-5400

Applicants will be contacted for interviews by the CCE Erie Master Gardener Education Committee in January. Please respond promptly to this request. Acceptance letters will be mailed February 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you have questions, please contact me at 716-652-5400 x 150 or [sin2@cornell.edu](mailto:sin2@cornell.edu). Thank you for your interest in the CCE *Master Gardener Program* of Erie County!

Sincerely,



Sharon Bachman

*Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator, and Master Gardener Coordinator*

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