



New Mexico State University Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Agreement

New Mexico State University (NMSU)/the University), the Extension Plant Science Department specialists, and your county extension agent, wish to welcome you as a NMSU Extension Master Program *volunteer*. Your initials and signature on this Agreement provide confirmation that you understand and accept the roles and responsibilities of NMSU, the Master Gardener Program and your role as a *volunteer* participant in the program.

Please read carefully and initial each statement. If you have questions/concerns, please speak with your program's county agent. By initialing, you acknowledge that you have read the statement, that you understand it and who it identifies as responsible, and you are in agreement with it. When you have read and initialed each statement, please sign and date on the designated line below. You will receive a copy of this Agreement and the original will be kept on file in the Program office.

Thank you for taking the time to read, initial, and sign this Agreement and Welcome Aboard!

_____ 1. I want to serve as a volunteer in the NMSU Master Gardener Program. This does not make me a University employee. The University and I both have the right to end my volunteer assignment at any time, for any reason with a thirty (30) day notice received via email or postal mail to the county extension agent.

_____ 2. In exchange for my service as a volunteer, I have neither been promised nor do I expect to receive any compensation other than the opportunity to serve my community, learn more about the world of plants, and share gardening information alongside my fellow gardeners.

_____ 3. I understand that participation in this program includes the normal risks associated with any gardening project's activities and I am willing and able to assume these risks and will not hold NMSU responsible for property damage or injuries I may incur while volunteering with the Master Gardener Program.

_____4. I have been advised by NMSU that it is my personal responsibility to maintain health and/or accident insurance coverage for any personal injury or accident that I may suffer while I am volunteering with this program. I understand that NMSU does not provide such coverage.

_____5. I will comply with all NMSU and NMSU Master Gardener policies, procedures, rule, regulations, and scheduling requirements applicable to my participation in this program. My failure to do so is grounds for dismissal from this volunteer position.

_____6. New Mexico State University agrees to provide me with third party general liability coverage according to state law for claims filed against me from performing my assigned duties as a Master Gardener Program volunteer.

_____7. I agree to accept and comply with this Agreement of my own free will. I have read, do understand, have initialed each clarifying statement, and provided my signature as evidence of my understanding and acceptance of this Agreement. I am 18 years of age or older and am competent to sign on my own behalf.

_____8. I understand that I have the right to be free from discrimination according to state and federal laws and I agree that if I experience or witness such misconduct in this program, I will report it to the Office of Institutional Equity, <https://equity.nmsu.edu> or (575) 646-3635.

_____9. NMSU may conduct a background review or investigation should I be engaged in volunteer activities involving the operation of NMSU vehicles or machinery, direct contact with children, or the handling of money. I consent to that background check and any periodic updates NMSU may elect to undertake.

_____10. This initialed and signed agreement sets forth the entire understanding between me as a Master Gardener program volunteer and NMSU. It supersedes any written or oral understanding, promise or agreement that is not referred to or incorporated in the Agreement.

VEMG Volunteer Signature

Date _____

County Agriculture Extension Agent

Date _____