

## WEST VIRGINIA MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER CODE OF CONDUCT

Code of Conduct is a contractual agreement accepted by volunteers who commit to the Master Gardener Program. The Code of Conduct shall guide them during their involvement in West Virginia Master Gardener Program. Just as it is a privilege for the West Virginia Cooperative Extension to work with individuals who volunteer their time and energies to West Virginia Master Gardeners, a volunteer's involvement in West Virginia Master Gardener Program is a privilege and a responsibility, not a right.

The West Virginia Master Gardener Program provides quality educational programs accessible to all West Virginians. The primary purpose of the Code of Conduct is to insure safety and well-being to all Master Gardener participants (members, their families, professionals and volunteers).

West Virginia Master Gardener volunteers are expected to function within guidelines of the West Virginia Cooperative Extension Service and the West Virginia Master Gardener program. West Virginia volunteers shall be individuals of personal integrity.

West Virginia Master Gardener Volunteers will:

- \* Uphold volunteerism as an effective way to meet the needs of youth and adults. (Volunteers are important.)
- \* Uphold an individual's right to dignity, self-development and self-direction. (Self-esteem)
- \* Accept supervision and support from professional Extension staff while involved in the program. (Agent has final say on policy, program.)
- \* Conduct themselves in a courteous and respectful manner, exhibit good sportsmanship and provide positive role models for all youth. (Role modeling)
- \* Respect, adhere to and enforce the rules, policies and guidelines established by their individual county Master Gardener program, the West Virginia Master Gardener program and the West Virginia Cooperative Extension Service. (Support decisions, positive)
- \* Not abuse any Master Gardener participant by physical or verbal means and will report such abuse, if observed, as outlined in the West Virginia Cooperative Extension Protection Policy. (Be kind, patient and protect each other.)
- \* Not commit a felonious criminal act. (Honest)
- \* Promote a welcoming environment by fostering a climate based on social justice. (Treat everyone equal.)
- \* Comply with equal opportunity and anti-discriminatory laws. (Treat everyone equal.)
- \* Discharge duties in a responsible and timely manner. (Good communication, opportunities.)
- \* Report immediately any threats to the volunteer's emotional or physical well-being to the county Extension Agent. (Volunteer Conflict.)
- \* Accept the responsibility to promote and support Master Gardener s in order to develop an effective county, state and national program. (Be an advocate for Master Gardeners, positive.)
- \* Operate machinery, vehicles and other equipment in a safe and responsible manner. (Safety, common sense.)

**I have read and understand the Code of Conduct outlined above. I understand and agree that any action on my part that contradicts any portion of this Code of Conduct is grounds for the suspension and/or termination of my volunteer status with the West Virginia Master Gardener program.**

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Signature of Master Gardener Volunteer

Date

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Signature of Extension Professional

Date