2026 Recertification Requirements are **20** hours Volunteer & **10** hours Continuing Education.

Aside from the many project gardens and other projects shown on the Approved Projects List which you can see by clicking the link above or by downloading it from VMS (under General Information> DOCs & Newsletters > Other Category), there are also many **indoor** opportunities to get volunteer hours, and tons of **online** continuing education available.

2026 Supplemental Volunteer & Continuing Education Opportunities

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Earn Volunteer hours:

1. You can **sign up to be an "Admin"** for one or more of the monthly Lunch & Learns (either at the Extension Office on 2nd Wednesday's, or at the Schertz and/or Seguin Public Library on 2nd Saturday's).
    - This needs to be coordinated in advance with the Education Director.
    - No experience necessary, we will teach you all you need to know!
    - We are hoping for multiple volunteers for each location so that an "Admin" only needs to cover one event every few months (unless you prefer to be a regular which is fine too!)
        - **At the Extension office tasks include:**
            - Setting up snacks & drinks (stored in MG Office), Setting up sign in sheets, Welcoming guests, Passing out handouts (if applicable), Potentially introducing the Speaker (some Speakers prefer to introduce themselves), Assist Speaker if needed, Collect sign in sheets and return them to the Education Director, Return snacks and drinks to MG Office, Clean-up and restore room to prior setting.
        - **At the Seguin & Schertz Libraries tasks include:**
            - Getting the projector equipment setup (Library Staff Tech Support will help if needed), Setting up sign in sheets, Welcoming guests, Passing out handouts, Libraries handle the snacks & drinks themselves if they even offer them, Potentially introducing the Speaker (some Speakers prefer to introduce themselves), Assist Speaker if needed, Collect sign in sheets and return them to the Education Director, Clean-up and restore room to prior setting, Return projector equipment to the desk.
2. **Seed Exchange** - ~~Every Monday 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, and~~ (Mondays hours have been suspended for now due to lack of activity/interest – We will resume when/if the need arises). We continue to be open **Wednesday's from 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM** (Except for 11/25/2026 & 12/23/2026) - Contact David or Karen Koepp or Ernestine Sykes if you have a special need outside these hours. See our project page here: https://guadalupecountymastergardeners.org/volunteer-outreach-service-opportunities/seed-exchange/ More than half of 2026 is already over, if you need Volunteer hours, we have many opportunities that you can help us with. There is always work to be done here. Below are the current items we would like worked on:
    - We have several boxes of seeds that can be sorted and organized.
    - We have many donated seeds that need sorting, packaging, and labeling.
    - Restock the seed displays as needed.

- Create printable labels for each donated seed type (similar to what we did for the advertising seed packets) - basically a small picture of what the plant or flower will look like, and then the normal details you find on a seed packet.
- We also still want to create a catalog of all the non-commercial seeds that have been donated by members. This catalog will be similar to what the NPSOT has setup at their seed libraries. Essentially it consists of a data sheet on each seed we have that gives all the pertinent details about that particular seed.
- We need to get a current full inventory of all the non-commercial seeds we have packaged up.
- We need to get a general inventory (types & varieties) of all the commercial seeds. We aren't looking to track quantities of the commercial seeds as there is just too much turnover and no easy way to easily track the in & out.
- We still want to capture all the details on all the books & other print materials in our library so we can get the Research Library contents online so folks can see what all we have available. Get with David Koepp on this as he has the specific app that is used to scan the ISBN #'s and the process of how to catalogue the items.
- We still want to create relevant documentation on all things seed related. We would like to create our own Guadalupe County Spring & Fall planting guides, Seed saving process and tips, a propagation primer,
- Review our current Tri-fold brochures and update if necessary and/or add new ones if needed.
- The Seed Exchange wants your help to produce several GCMG-branded documents, pamphlets, brochures, etc. to use to help advertise what we do here at GCMG and to provide education on our Seed library, Seed saving techniques, Seed starting, Varieties that do well here, Planting times, propagation primer, our own Spring & Fall Planting guides, Types of seeds explained (open pollinated, heirloom, hybrid, F1, organic, GMO, etc. and other materials that are helpful. If you like to write and are interested in producing one of more of these types of materials for us, please contact David Koepp for more information.
- The MG Office is also looking for some help from members who are creative and would like to create some GCMG-branded cards for the various occasions that we send cards out for including: Thank You cards, Get Well, Sympathy, etc. Please contact David Koepp for more information. I have since created several cards to use, but we welcome other ideas and content. We have computers that can be utilized for these purposes in the office, or you are welcome to bring you own or in some cases work on them at home remotely.

3. Do you know how to **work on Websites**? Word Press and/or HTML coding? Please contact David Koepp or Frank Rippel for more information.

4. **Learn to film** the membership meetings and lunch and learns - Contact Paul Prince
    - We are looking for multiple volunteers so that tasks/events can be spread out instead of just one person (Paul Prince) doing them all. No experience necessary, Paul will teach you all you need to know!
5. **Write an article** for the monthly Newsletter - Contact Melinda Lucas
6. **Submit an article** for the Wandering Gardener section of our monthly Newsletter including pictures of a garden you have visited - Contact Melinda Lucas
7. **Help with the Annual GCMG Calendar Fundraiser!** Contact Pam Younger for more information. The 2028 Calendar work will begin in late 2026 / early 2027.
8. You can find & **view the recordings of our prior Lunch & Learn's as well as monthly membership meetings** for **Volunteer & Continuing Education hours** by subscribing to our YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/@gcmgtx?sub_confirmation=1 or under the following link on our website https://guadalupecountymastergardeners.org/continuing-education/
    - **Remember** the business portion of the membership meeting counts towards Volunteer hours (1.0 hours Vol), the educational presentation portion counts towards CE hours (1 hour CE Max). Please note the policy on Membership meetings: Only 1 volunteer hour for Business Meeting and a Max of 1 CE hour is allowed (regardless of length of presentation). Volunteer hours can be more than 1 if includes travel time (note in description and/or fill in mileage field) and/or you participated in set up / tear down / clean up (also note in description if true). Reminder – preparing or purchasing food or beverages for the meeting cannot be claimed as volunteer or CE time.
9. **Recruit for the next Master Gardener Class** #42 (As of November 2026, we have 21 folks signed up!) – Pick up an updated recruiting packet from the Master Gardener Office upstairs. If you run out of flyers, applications or other materials, come grab another packet or ask one of the MG Office POCs for whatever supplies you may need. Have questions? Contact David Koepp
10. Another opportunity to gain volunteer hours (and maybe make a new friend) is to **be a mentor** to one or more new interns for upcoming class 42.
    - Please consider also reaching out to our remaining class 41 interns to see if they need anything to help them get their certification completed.
11. **Our remaining 2026 interns still need many volunteer hours by the end of June 2027 in order to certify** and may welcome a friendly offer of mentorship to help them achieve that goal. **You can find the intern list in VMS** by going to the General Information tab then Member Roster, then toggle the "Status" twisty (triangle next to "Status" if not already showing list) on the far left and click on Interns. You can further filter by typing the "Start year" of Interns you want to see (2026) in the quick search box and pressing enter.

12. **Grow plants** for the upcoming Fall Season plant sales. Contact Clayton Phelps to coordinate for what is needed, when, and supplies. Collect pots, participate in the pot washing and make ready tasks.
13. **Participate in the Speakers Bureau Shadow program.** Earn volunteer hours while learning how to put together and give presentations. Contact the Education Director Karen Koepp for more details.
14. Do you have a particular Gardening niche you are passionate about? **Put together an Educational presentation** on it and submit it to the Education director Karen Koepp for review. Time spent researching your subject can be claimed as CE, but building & giving the presentation is Volunteer time.
15. Many other opportunities exist throughout the year, just ask any GCMG Board member how you can help. Volunteer hours including travel time to/from can only be claimed for activities providing horticultural education and horticultural community service of approved GCMG projects, including but not limited to:
    - Educational outreach (i.e. Info booths), teaching, and demonstration projects.
    - Plant growing/care/sales, crafts, and food items to sell for fundraising events.
    - Volunteering at any of the GCMG approved gardens/parks/projects.
    - If you have any questions on this, contact the Volunteer Director Kathy Carroll, or the Membership Director David Koepp.

Earn Continuing Education hours:

1. You can find & view the recordings of our prior Lunch & Learn's as well as monthly membership meetings for **Volunteer & Continuing Education hours** by subscribing to our YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/@gcmgtx?sub_confirmation=1 or under the following link on our website: https://guadalupecountymastergardeners.org/continuing-education/
    - Remember the business portion of the membership meeting counts towards Volunteer hours (0.75 hours Vol), the educational presentation portion counts towards CE hours (1 hour CE).
2. Bexar County MG YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/@MyExtension210
3. Aggie Horticulture YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbp4wkcScRVoHlN3Hi1_KUQ
4. On-line Programs via Texas A&M AgriLife Extension website: https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu
5. Earth kind On-Line Continuing Education Training: http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/training/
6. Plant Party webinar series is a collaboration between Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service: https://southtexasrangelands.tamu.edu/plant-party/
7. Texas Parks & Wildlife Department: https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/
8. Texas Forestry Service: https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/education-outreach/
9. Native Plant Society of New Braunfels Past Presentations: https://www.npsot.org/chapters/new-braunfels/past-presentations/
10. Many video links that can be found in our monthly Newsletter also apply toward CE hours.
11. See our Website and Web Calendar for more CE opportunities and details.

Have questions about what can count towards your CE hours?

- Refer to the GCMG Policy & Procedure Manual (PPM), which you can find on our website here http://guadalupecountymastergardeners.org/files/2025/01/PPM-October2024.pdf, starting on page 20 under Section C. Definition of Approved Continuing Education (CE) Hours.
- If not listed there, you can contact the **GCMG Education Director** Karen Koepp.

Do you have any questions, suggestions, see something missing, have a comment, or need to report a broken link? We welcome your feedback and would love to hear from you. You can email David Koepp or you can submit it online here: Click Here

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