Northeastern Wisconsin Master Gardeners
FIND YOUR NICHE AND GROW

Associate Membership Guide

Learn, volunteer, and grow with Northeastern Wisconsin Master Gardeners

A welcoming way to get involved

Associate Membership is for adults who enjoy gardening, learning, and serving their community but are not currently Certified Master Gardeners. You can take an active role in our gardens, committees, educational programs, and community events while building your knowledge and meeting others who share your interests.

Who can become an Associate Member

- You must be at least 18 years old.
- You do not need previous Master Gardener certification or advanced gardening experience.
- You should be interested in learning more about gardening and supporting our community work.

What Associate Members can do

- Volunteer in NEW Master Gardener project gardens and at community outreach events.
- Join standing committees and help with association programs and events.
- Attend general membership meetings.
- Vote on association matters and receive member communications and eBlasts.
- Serve on the Board of Directors, but not on the Executive Committee.

Learning and service

Associate Members are encouraged to complete **24 hours of volunteer service** and **10 hours of continuing education** each year. These goals help members stay involved, expand their skills, and experience the many ways our organization serves the community. They are encouraged goals for general Associate Membership, not annual membership requirements.

Important membership distinctions

- Associate Members are members of the Northeastern Wisconsin Master Gardeners Association, but they are not Master Gardeners.
- Associate Members may not present themselves to the public as Master Gardeners.
- Associate Members are not eligible for membership in the Wisconsin Master Gardener Association.
- All members agree to follow the Northeastern Wisconsin Master Gardeners Association bylaws and other applicable organizational policies.

How to join

Becoming an Associate Member involves three steps:

1. **Complete the enrollment form** available through our Membership page.
2. **Pay annual membership dues** at the same rate as other current members.
3. **Complete the** Brown County Volunteer Form before volunteering in a project garden. Brown County requires this form to be renewed every three years.

Forms and current membership information

Visit the NEW Master Gardener Membership page to find the enrollment form, Brown County Volunteer Form instructions, and other current membership information.

newmastergardeners.org/membership-page

An optional path to certification

Associate Members are encouraged—but not required—to pursue Wisconsin Master Gardener training through UW–Madison Extension. There is no deadline for becoming a trained Master Gardener, and you are welcome to remain an Associate Member.

Learn about Wisconsin Master Gardener certification: mastergardener.extension.wisc.edu

Paul Hartman Reimbursement Scholarship

The NEW Master Gardeners offers a financial scholarship for partial reimbursement (50%) of incurred UW-Madison Extension Certification Course Fees to our Associate Members who choose to take the class for certification. Associate Members who plan to apply for the Paul Hartman Reimbursement Scholarship must complete and document at least **24 volunteer hours** and **10 hours of continuing education** in either the year they start the class or the year they complete the class. Scholarship applicants must submit their logged hours before applying and meet the scholarship deadline, which is the last business day of October.

Questions

We would be happy to help you learn more about membership and find a way to become involved that fits your interests and schedule.

Email: membership@newmastergardeners.org **Website:** newmastergardeners.org

About these guidelines

The Northeastern Wisconsin Master Gardeners Association Board of Directors administers these guidelines and may revise them as organizational needs or requirements change.