STUDENT APPLICATION
INFORMATION SHEET

What is the mission of the Santa Fe Master Gardeners Association (SFMGA)?
Our mission is to learn, teach and promote locally sustainable gardening through reliable, current, research-based practices.

What does it mean to be a Master Gardner (MG)?
The SFMGA and County Extension Service believe that active citizen participation is the cornerstone of community growth. Created to serve anyone interested in gardening, the SFMGA has grown to become a fun and useful volunteer activity, supporting the gardening needs of the Santa Fe public while offering its members continued learning and a vital sense of community spirit and personal accomplishment.

What is a Master Gardener?
A Master Gardener is a student who:

- Successfully completes the training by attending at least 14 of the 16 training sessions and achieves a passing grade (70) on all take home tests.
- Completes an internship by volunteering a minimum of 30 hours within the calendar year.
- Each year thereafter, performs a minimum of 30 volunteer service hours and pays $25 annual membership dues to maintain their certification.

Only individuals performing volunteer service are considered Master Gardeners.

What does the training consist of?
The classes run once a week (3 hours) for 16 weeks. NMSU and local educators teach the classes in lecture and PowerPoint format. Each student is given a permanent class binder that includes handouts for each class. After each class session, students are given a take home test. Passing score is 70 and students are expected to pass all of the tests. Students are allowed to miss two classes without penalty but must make up tests for missed classes. Students who successfully complete the training become interns for one year. All classes are taught in English.

While every effort will be made to have our instructors cover organic practices, this training is not exclusively about organic gardening.

What is the curriculum for the training?
The curriculum is focused around the sustainable garden. Topics covered are: Soils, Environmental Concerns, Water Systems, Design, Hardscape, Plant Selection, Common Santa Fe Plant Problems and Integrated Pest Management, with additional training on handling public gardening inquiries. Anyone wishing to view a sample class binder may call the County Extension office at 471-4711.

What are the volunteer requirements for interns?
Interns complete 30 hours in three categories: 12 hours of Public Education (PE) directly advising the public on gardening issues on the hotline or at an MG information booth, and 18 hours of Hands-On (HO) work in one of our project gardens or Organization (ORG) activity, which is any non-gardening work such as planning, committee work and working at our signature event, the annual spring Garden Fair.

What happens if students don't complete the internship requirements?
Students who do not finish their internship by December may elect to become second year

interns completing 30 new volunteer hours by the end of the next calendar year. Hours may not be carried over from year one.

What are the volunteer projects Master Gardeners work on?
Master Gardeners act as advisors to the home gardener by answering gardening questions and diagnosing plant problems on the hotline or at regular information booths around Santa Fe. Master Gardeners also perform hands-on gardening at various MG sponsored and community gardens. Each season, new gardening projects become available for MGs to support. The annual spring Garden Fair offers many opportunities for interns and MGs to volunteer and use both advisory and administrative skills.

When can students begin volunteering?
Students can begin work on volunteer projects at any time after the class starts. Students are supported in their volunteer work by Master Gardener project leaders and mentors.