

Rutherford County

FROM THE GROUND UP



October 8, 2024

2025 Rutherford County Master Gardener Intern Training

Are you an avid gardener, like giving back to your local community, and enjoy fellowshiping with likeminded individuals? If so, then you may be a perfect fit as a member of the Rutherford County Master Gardener Association. The process for becoming a certified Master Gardener entails in-class and hands-on training, in combination with volunteer service and continuing education.



**Justin Stefanski,
Extension Agent II**

The first step in the process is completing the intern training series, which begins in January 2025. This 14-week training will take place weekly starting on January 28th and will conclude on April 29th, and will be held on Tuesdays from 9am until noon. The training series will take place at the community center located at Lane Agripark. The classes will consist of in-class training, combined with hands-on experiential learning and field trips. We will cover a wide range of topics, ranging from soils, botany, vegetable gardening, herbaceous and woody plants, landscape design, small fruits, and many more. Classes will be taught by UT Extension experts from across the state and will offer a wealth of information.

Acceptance into the training series will solidify your status as a Master Gardener Intern, and as such, you will be able to begin volunteering with one of our many approved volunteer projects. These volunteer hours will then count toward your required total of 40 hours that you must log before the end of the 2025 calendar year. In addition, interns must complete eight hours of continuing education, which can be obtained through attending educational lectures and classes that are held throughout the year. Upon completion of the intern class and obtaining the required volunteer and continuing education hours, you will have fulfilled the requirements to become a bonified, badge wearing, Tennessee Extension Master Gardener.

We will be accepting applications until December 1st and space is limited, so enroll soon to reserve your spot. Once we have received your application, one of our members will be reaching out to you to conduct a brief interview. After this is completed, all that are accepted into the program will be notified before the Christmas holiday break. The cost for the course is \$175 and fees will be collected once you have been officially accepted into the program.

Continue to next page

For more information about the classes, including a schedule and application packet, please visit our website at Rutherford.tennessee.edu and click on the gardening tab on the top of the page. You can also call me directly at 615-898-7710 or send me an email at jski@utk.edu. I am happy to help answer any questions you may have regarding the upcoming training series.

Happy Gardening!



Rutherford County Master Gardeners photo J.Stefanski