

Mentor Program Lead Responsibilities

The reason that we put Mentors with people new to the Master Gardener program is to help them become part of the community as quickly as possible. We want to ensure that new master gardeners have a contact and resource to help answer their questions.

Responsibilities

The Lead for the mentor program has the flexibility to develop and change the program as best suited to the size of the class. Responsibilities include:

- Estimating the number of Mentors needed based on the size of the incoming class
- Presenting the goals and overall approach of the program in the MG membership meeting. Identifying the expectations and responsibilities for the Mentor and Interns; and presenting the support that the Lead will provide.
- Asking for MGs in general to volunteer to be a Mentor. If insufficient Mentors volunteer, the lead will need to actively solicit MGs to be Mentors.
- Matching Mentors with Interns. The Lead will determine the best way to do the match. In the past, locations of homes and prior relationships with MGs have been used.
- Introducing the program to the Interns during the first class session.
- Creating a rough schedule for communications that aligns with the Intern classes and upcoming events that can be used for reminder communications.
- Communicate with both the Mentors and Interns on a regular basis.
 - Giving suggestions to Mentors to communicate about upcoming events or activities like home visits that can build relationships.
 - Sending reminders to Interns to ask their Mentors for help when necessary, and checking with them to see how the relationship is working.
- Evaluating the success of the program and reporting on it to the MG members.

Mentoring is a two way street between the Mentor and the Intern. A good mentoring relationship includes communications from both parties. Some Interns will not need or want a Mentor

“Mentoring is a brain to pick, an ear to listen and a push in the right direction.”

John Crosby