



Advanced Training – Level V

The requirements for attaining Level V of Advanced Training are for the candidate to have completed 38 Advanced Training classes and to complete a project of their choosing from the list below. The project must be educational in nature and make a significant contribution to a local community, school, or Master Gardener (MG) program. **The project must be on a preapproved horticulture topic.**

The candidate will submit a proposed topic to the Advanced Training Project Chairperson (ATPC) and Master Gardener Advanced Training Coordinator (MGATC). The ATPC will submit the topic for approval to the training project members and a peer review team and will notify the candidate of the groups' decision. The project may be done any time after completing Level IV. Possible projects can be from the following categories.

Possible Service Projects

-Provide support to counties with small MG groups as they need and request help. For example, support could be assistance with monthly meetings such as getting speakers or giving advice about implementing a successful project but would not be limited to these.

-Establish and mentor a community-based hands-on project in a public sustainable garden with a life of at least one year. The garden should be instructive with appropriate plant labels. This project would involve working with community residents who are not MGs.

-Develop and document an educational project for the public. This could be a specific educational seminar or a series of workshops such as pruning techniques with demonstrations for various types of plants, raised bed gardening, vegetable gardening, etc.

-Teach a series of lessons as part of a school curriculum and integrate it with a horticulture or garden topic. It could be during the school day or an after-school hours project. Topics such as butterfly or pollinator gardens, environmental issues or other subjects interesting to students could be taught. The lessons should be part of the school's curriculum and the objective would be to further student interest in gardening or to further student awareness of environmental issues.

-Chair or co-chair an advanced training in your county or in cooperation with another county.

In summary, the Level V project should show the MG putting into practice some of the knowledge gained at the advanced classes. The candidate is not limited to those categories of service but must describe an alternative plan of service and its contribution to the public or MG program.

A lesson plan or outline of what the candidate proposes should be sent to the ATPC and to the MGATC who would setup a review process which would approve the proposed project and evaluate the project upon completion. The following is the process:

- Review by the Master Gardener Advisor before peer review
- Peer review by a committee of two MGs who have attained Level III or IV of Advanced Training, two members of AT Project, and County 76 President or Vice President.

The proposed project will then be sent to a peer review team and the AT Project members for approval. **The project proposal must be approved before the candidate begins the project.**

Upon completion of the project, the candidate will submit documentation of the project to the ATPC and MGATC. Documentation will include:

- A 400-500 word description and summary of the project by the candidate which includes three reliable resources such as books or websites
- Before and after pictures or a series of pictures showing the progress of the project
- A traveling poster of the project to be used at MG events

The ATPC will initiate the review process in a timely manner—within a month of receiving the project documentation if at all possible. (It might be more efficient to convene a peer review group at a County 76 quarterly meeting or other meetings such as the MG State Conference or PNG Leadership meetings.)

Upon recommendation of the peer review team, an Advanced Training Level V project will be approved and Level V Advanced Training will be awarded by County 76.

When awarded a Level V Advanced Training, the MG will present his or her project at a County 76 meeting or PNG Meeting. When the presentation is made an award in the amount of \$100, will be presented to the MG.

Approved October 24, 2017