



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
VOLUNTEER REPORT FORM
PERIOD JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024
Deadline: August 7, 2024

1. DEPARTMENT INFORMATION:

Department:	University of California Cooperative Extension
Division/Unit:	San Diego County

2. VOLUNTEER PROGRAM BENEFITS:

- a. GENERAL VOLUNTEERS (this section should include community volunteer, student intern, groups, corporations, etc.)

No. of Volunteers: 589 Hours: 115,360 x \$38.61 = \$4,454,049.60

Types of work performed by GENERAL VOLUNTEERS in this category:

Master Gardeners are volunteers trained and supervised by the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE). For 40 years the Master Gardener Volunteers have been dedicated to our mission “to extend research-based knowledge and information on home horticulture, pest management, and sustainable landscape practices to the residents of California and be guided by our core values and strategic initiatives” to San Diego County residents. Typically, this extremely useful information is disseminated via the Master Gardener’s 24/7 hotline, information booths at local fairs and garden shows, walk-ins, mail, demonstration gardens, seminars, workshops, newspaper and print articles, blogs with science-based research, school gardens, and various other community events.

The Master Food Preserver (MFP) is a public service and outreach program that extends research-based information about home food preservation to the public. The key mission is to keep residents safe and well as they culturally appropriate, research-based practices to safely preserve food in home, reducing food waste, increasing food security, and providing engaging ways for citizens to explore healthy food. Volunteers are required to attend an intensive training program that covers topics such as food safety, boiling water and atmospheric steam canning, pressure canning, canning jam and jellies, pickling and fermenting, and dehydrating and freezing. Classes meet several times a month, with multiple hands-on labs, quizzes, special projects, and a final exam.

The 4-H Youth Development Program is an educational initiative managed by the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE), a division of the UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Designed to foster positive youth development, the program emphasizes social, physical, and emotional skills in young participants. Through interactive experiential learning, youth are encouraged and supported to achieve their maximum potential, thereby contributing to the advancement of youth development as a field. In San Diego County, local youth and adult volunteers play a crucial role by organizing and facilitating 15 community clubs as part of the program.



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b. INSTITUTIONAL VOLUNTEERS (this section should include honor camp inmates, PIC/RETC, GAIN, etc.)

No. of Volunteers: N/A Hours: N/A x \$38.61 = \$0.00

Types of work performed by INSTITUTIONAL VOLUNTEERS in this category: N/A

c. SPECIALIZED VOLUNTEERS (this section should include utilization of Special Volunteers in positions requiring specific skills and/or expertise levels, for example, an attorney, physician, sports figure or celebrity). These specialized positions have verifiable compensation levels (VCL). If you have such a volunteer, please indicate the position, hours and compensation level below.)

Position	Hours	x	VCL	=	Dollar Benefit
Educational Cooperators	394		59.99		\$23,636.06

No. of Volunteers: 49 Total Hours: 394 Total Value: = \$23,636.06

Types of work performed by SPECIALIZED VOLUNTEERS in this category:

The adult EFNEP volunteers help set up and break down teaching areas for lessons to be taught to the participants. While youth volunteers are all classroom teachers who assist educators with discipline of youth and distribution of lesson materials and direct instruction.

d. TOTALS OF DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEERS (from above):

	No. of Volunteers		Hours		Dollar Benefit
2a.	589		115,360		\$4,454,049.60
2b.	0		0		\$0.00
2c.	49		394		\$23,636.06
Total Volunteers	638	Total Hours	115,754	Total Value	\$4,477,685.66



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3. DONATIONS TO VOLUNTEER PROGRAM:

Please list all donations to the department’s Volunteer Program including monetary donations and tangible/intangible items. Items such as computers, air time, transportation, books, etc. Please assign a fair market value to each and add to the total value of the donations section.

Item Donated: MG Endowment Value: \$4,478.22

Total Value: \$4,478.22

4. VOLUNTEER PROGRAM COSTS:

a. Cost of direct supervision of volunteers (total hours of direct supervision times hourly rate of staff person(s) directly supervising program volunteers.

Hours: N/A x Rate: N/A = \$0.00

b. Cost of program coordination (total hours of program coordination times hourly rate of coordinator(s)). This section should include coordination of staff, compiling statistics, job description preparation, volunteer placements and recognition, etc.

Hours: 2,066 x Rate: 41.61 = \$85,966.26

c. Other program costs (volunteer training materials/supplies, recognition costs, etc.):

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>
N/A	
TOTAL OF OTHER PROGRAM COSTS	\$0.00

d. **TOTAL OF VOLUNTEER PROGRAM COST**
(Sum of 4a, 4b and 4c) **\$85,966.26**

5. NET BENEFIT TO DEPARTMENT FROM VOLUNTEER PROGRAM:

a. Total Dollar Benefits of Volunteers, Item 2d (Page 2)	\$4,477,685.66
b. Total of Donations to Volunteer Program, Item 3 (Page 2)	\$4,478.22
c. Subtract Total of Volunteer Program Costs, Item 4d (Page 3)	\$85,966.26

TOTAL PROGRAM BENEFIT **\$4,568,130.14**

6. RECRUITING:



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Please describe your recruiting programs:

Master Gardener Volunteers are added to our program every other year. Our program is currently in the recruitment phase, applications due by September 30th, 2024. Each Master Gardener agrees to a 6-month long training commitment involving weekly training by UC and local horticultural experts to become certified Master Gardeners. Each year, Master Gardeners must complete a minimum number of volunteer and continuing education hours to recertify and continue with the program.

Master Food Preserver Program hosts a statewide training program, onboarding all new volunteers at one time during the year. Two MFP Volunteers joined the statewide training effort and became mentors to a new virtual training program rolled out across all counties. Each volunteer mentors a group of prospective new volunteers from Counties that do not have a current coordinator and MFP program. Their mentees will graduate in June 2024. Recruitment efforts are conducted via direct email, website, and social media

EFNEP staff are always recruiting for more classes and attend scheduled collaborative meeting held throughout the county.

For the 2023-2024 program year, clubs continued to use traditional marketing tools and outreach opportunities like flyers in schools, community centers, online community portals, and fairs. The website and social media for county information, as well as individual clubs were widely used for outreach. Many clubs participated in community events like street fairs and parades to promote the program.

7. SPECIAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM ACTIVITIES/ACHIEVEMENTS:

Please describe any special activities and/or achievements your program was involved in during the period of this report:

The Master Gardeners (MGs) held an all-day outreach event at the County of San Diego Operations Center. Welcoming more than 400 attendees to participate in seminars, workshops, presentations, connect with our outreach committees and get their gardening questions answered, sharpened more than 100 tools for free, and buy locally grown native plants. Please see the linked brochure of events. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rfZSsMun1HwFUbmE3ZycUQvIQLjvaVR6/view>

Additionally, the Master Gardeners held a two-day spring gardening expo, partnering with Home Depot in Lemon Grove and College Area Community Garden. We answered home horticulture and pest questions, provided a demonstrations about irrigation systems, how to apply universal design and garden for inclusivity, how to compost, how to garden using the 8 principles of being earth friendly, outreach and make-and-take crafts for kids, microscope use and insect identification, caring for tools, starting and working at a community garden, how to grow microgreens and taught how to garden with plants of cultural significance. We provided outreach to 400 kids and 1,218 attendees in total on day one and 500 attendees on day two.



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The Master Gardener Program opened their Demonstration Garden at the Flower Fields in Carlsbad, welcoming over 285,000 people in the short two months they were open to the public, March-May 2024. During that time, tourists and locals alike enjoyed the open space of the demonstration garden, asking gardening questions of MG docents who staffed the garden in shifts to ensure there was always someone available to assist. The Demonstration Garden at COC hosted lunch and learns for county staff once a month during the whole year, each month focusing on a different topic and county program to highlight.

The Master Food Preservers partnered with the Southern California Trial Chairmen's Association to teach food preservation to tribal members at Santa Ysabel, Campo, and Rincon. Participants were able to learn a series of food preservation techniques such as low acid canning, high acid canning, fermentation, dehydration, and pickling. On May 18, 2024, the Master Food Preserver volunteers held a workshop on preserving our harvest as well as staffed a booth at the all-day Master Gardener Spring Expo, which had over 100 attendees, answering various questions about food preservation and food safety.

4-H Volunteers stepped up to plan and conduct county events to support leadership, public speaking, and interviewing skills. Members have participated in regional and statewide programs such as State Presentation Day and State Leadership Conference. Fifteen members attended 4-H Summer Camp. One member of the 56 Ranchers 4-H Club won a Golden Clover Award in the Robert Brownlee Science Award category.

8. VOLUNTEER PROGRAM GOALS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 -24:

Please describe your program goals. Include activities, number of volunteers, recruitment, training, recognition and other goals:

The primary goal for the San Diego Master Gardeners is to add 50 more certified volunteers, which would bring our total volunteer count to 379.

The Master Food Preservers will continue to grow their volunteer numbers and collaborate with various partners. The creation of social media accounts will promote awareness to this new program.

In June of 2024, the EFNEP Program backfilled two Educator Cooperator positions. Onboarding and vigorous training are currently in progress. There is new energy to our outreach and education for San Diego County. The volunteer plan will remain the same due to the work of EFNEP as outlined above.

We strive to have new locations meet 80% of our goals for the first few months until the new educators are fully trained and can execute independently.

In the upcoming year, the 4-H Youth Development Program will maintain operations to enhance support for its volunteers and youth. Additionally, the program aims to expand its presence at community events to bolster recruitment and raise awareness of the 4-H program. There will be increased opportunities for training and informational orientation meetings highlighting the positive



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impact and outcomes of the program for youth. Efforts will be concentrated on growing membership among both volunteers and youth, with a specific focus on increasing volunteer numbers. The program will continue to explore various delivery methods such as afterschool programming, community program, clubs, and traditional 4-H clubs.

9. GENERAL INFORMATION:

Name of Person Completing Report:	Erin Spaniel		
Phone Number:	858-822-7854	Mail Stop:	
Email:	enspaniel@ucanr.edu		

Volunteer Coordinator:	Erin Spaniel		
Phone Number:	858-822-7854	Mail Stop:	
Email:	enspaniel@ucanr.edu		

10. DEPARTMENT CERTIFICATION:

DEPARTMENT HEAD SIGNATURE

DATE