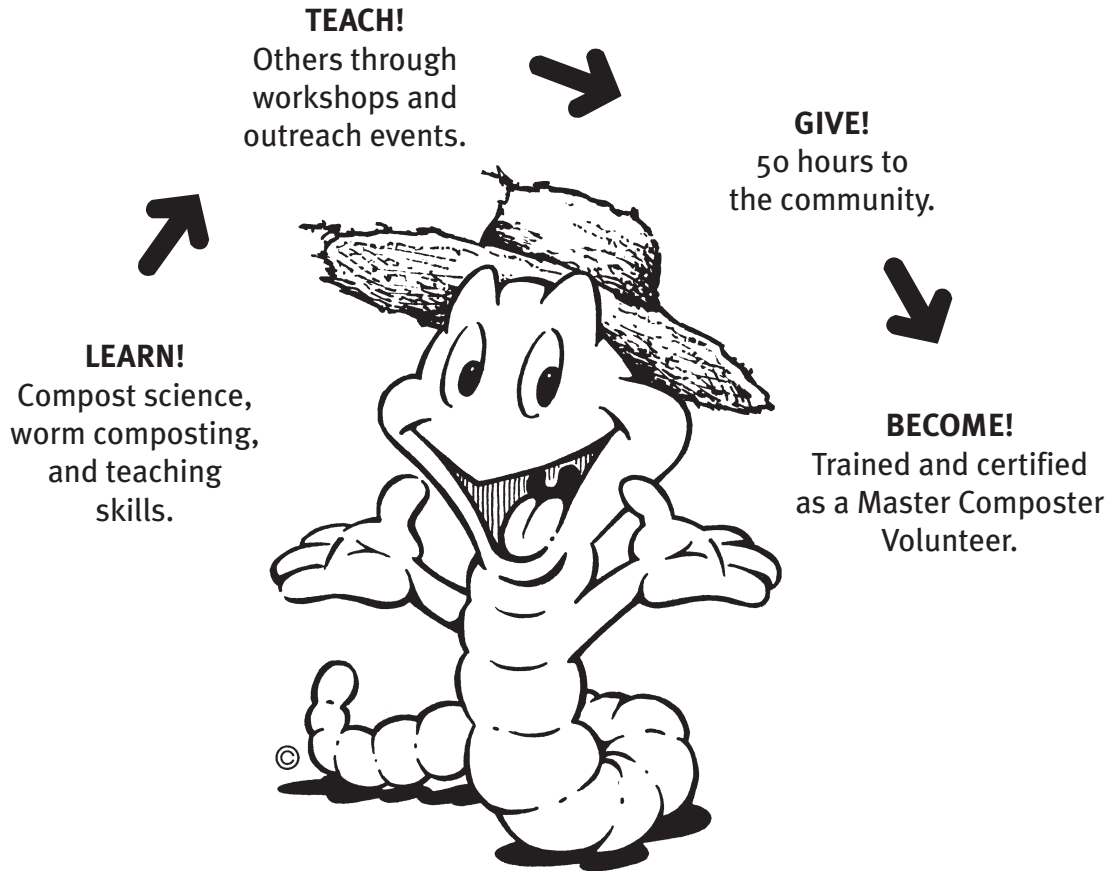


Make a difference: be a Master Composter!



Join the Master Composter Volunteer Program in Santa Clara County.

Training includes workshops on the art and science of basic and worm composting, field trips, certification and all training materials.

Master Composter training enhances the skills of community leaders, activists, educators, environmentalists, gardeners, and recyclers.

We encourage adults of all ages, abilities, and ethnic groups to apply. If you have ideas and

energy for community action, this class is for you.

Classes meet on Wednesday nights (plus four Saturdays), January 5 - March 9, 2011.

Applications are due Weds., December 8, 2010.

Students pay a \$50 fee. Fees may be waived upon request. Questions, call 408-918-4640.



Recycling & Waste Reduction Commission
of Santa Clara County

Brought to you by the Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission and your City

Master Composter Training Schedule 2011

Classes are from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. at 1555 Berger Drive Auditorium, San Jose. Saturday dates are field trips and will be from 8:30 a.m.– noon.

WELCOME

Wednesday, January 5

Overview of Bay-Friendly Gardening & Building Healthy Soil.

COMPOST BASICS

Wednesday, January 12

Overview, projects and volunteer opportunities.

SUCCESSFUL COMPOSTING

Saturday, January 15

From the Ground Up hands-on class at Prusch Park in San Jose. Dress to work outside. Demonstration site work meeting. Fill compost bins, sort worm bin, equipment, tools.

FIELD TRIP

Saturday, January 22

Tour of Palo Alto landfill/compost site and the SMART station in Sunnyvale.

WORM COMPOSTING

Wednesday, January 26

Worm Composting. Learn how to set up a worm bin, how to teach vermicomposting to children.

BUILD A BIN

Saturday, January 29

Learn to build a wood worm bin.

PRESENTATION SKILLS

Wednesday, February 2

Science of Composting.

COMPOST RESOURCES

Wednesday, February 9

Book review, compost text and library resources.

PRESENTATION SKILLS

Wednesday, February 16

Master Composter Volunteers share experiences in preparing for workshop presentations.

FIELD TRIP

Saturday, February 19

Tour of Z-Best Compost Facility in Gilroy. Tour starts at 10am sharp.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

Wednesday, February 23

Bay-Friendly Integrated Pest Management.

Take home final exam distributed.

PRESENTATION SKILLS

Wednesday, March 2

Practice giving a workshop presentation. Bring teaching aids and/or flip charts. Final Exam Due

GRADUATION & CELEBRATION

Wednesday, March 9

Review final exam.

Graduation and pot-luck dinner celebration.

This schedule is subject to change as necessary.

Master Composter Training Program Application

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

City/Zip _____

How did you hear about this program? _____

1. **Why do you want to be a Master Composter?**

2. **Describe your experiences in composting and/or gardening.**

3. **What skills and experiences would make you a successful Master Composter? Include any relevant work, volunteer, and educational experiences.**

4. **Describe an outreach project that you would like to undertake. Please focus on projects that teach people in a hands-on manner. What audience would you like to teach composting to (i.e. neighbors, scout groups, co-workers, etc.)?**

5. **What other activities would you be doing this spring besides training as a Master Composter?**

6. **Are you available for an interview during the following times?**
Circle one: **Tuesday, Nov. 2 OR Wednesday, Nov. 3** Circle one: **9am 1pm 4pm**
If yes, please reserve that day and time. If no, what is the closest time to those dates you would be available? _____

7. **Please list two references who have known you for at least two years.**

Name _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Phone _____

I understand that my submittal of this application is my promise and commitment to attend all training classes and complete the required 50 hour minimum volunteer obligation within one year of graduation from the training classes.

DATE

APPLICANT SIGNATURE

Applications must be received in our office no later than Wednesday, December 8, 2010 to:
County of Santa Clara Home Composting Education Program, 1553 Berger Dr., Building 1, San Jose CA 95112,
or fax to 408-282-3188.

Master Composter Volunteer Service Commitment

The Home Composting Education Program (HCEP) is part of the Santa Clara County Integrated Waste Management Program. The program relies on the services of Master Composter volunteers to provide staffing for public outreach events and training workshops to educate residents of Santa Clara County who wish to learn the art and techniques of composting. In addition to meeting specified volunteer commitments, Master Composters represent the County when working at County or city-sponsored events.

I, the undersigned, agree to volunteer my services to the County of Santa Clara for the Home Composting Education Program (HCEP). I acknowledge and agree that there is no salary or other compensation to be provided by the County for my services as a volunteer.

I understand that I will not be covered by the County's Workers Compensation during the course and scope of my volunteer services to the County. However I understand that I may be covered by the County's excess policy up to a limit of \$5,000, if expenses are not covered by my primary insurance coverage or if I do not have medical, hospitalization, or accident insurance.

In addition, I release and discharge the County of Santa Clara, its officers, volunteers, agents and/or employees from all actions, claims, losses, or demands that I, my heirs, spouse, guardians, legal representatives, or assigns may now or later have for any property damage arising or resulting from my volunteer service or activities.

I AGREE TO:

- Follow the directions of the HCEP Coordinators and/or the directions of County and city staff when working at events;
- Teach HCEP-sponsored workshops according to the approved curriculum;
- Support accomplishment of County and city goals when working at sponsored events; and
- Demonstrate appropriate professional behavior in interactions with County staff, city staff, and members of the public.

I acknowledge and agree that my services are provided for the convenience of the County and may be terminated at any time by the County without notice or hearing.

DURING TRAINING AND/OR SERVICE AS A MASTER COMPOSTER VOLUNTEER, I AGREE TO:

1. Participate in Prusch Park compost site maintenance.
2. Maintain a working composting pile or bin and a worm-composting unit in my yard or garden.
3. Suggest community events that may be appropriate for Master Composter participation for consideration by program directors.
4. Participate in outreach events or presentations to special groups such as PTA, Scouts, civic clubs, environmental clubs, schools. Event locations may be in other cities within Santa Clara County.
5. Attend all evening training classes and Saturday laboratory classes as well as complete all assignments and pass the final exam.
6. Volunteer a minimum of 50 hours to perform composting education and outreach in Santa Clara County within one year of graduation.
7. Maintain records of hours volunteered and number of contacts, using provided forms.
8. Attend at least half of the monthly in-service training meetings after graduation.

I have read and understood the above requirements. I commit to participate in the Master Composter Program as described above.

SIGNATURE

DATE

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE NUMBER