

Missouri Master Pollinator Steward Program

Operational Guidelines

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Missouri Master Pollinator Steward Program

The Missouri Master Pollinator Steward program is an education-based program offered by University of Missouri Extension. It is designed to provide farmers and landowners with training in the following areas:

- Insect overview
- Plant and pollinator relationship
- Pollinator societies
- Natural and managed habitats
- Disease and pest management
- Habitat management for attracting and keeping pollinators

Program objectives

The objectives of the Missouri Master Pollinator Steward program include:

- Using research-based information to meet the growing public interest in honey bees and native pollinators;
- Providing a better understanding of the importance of pollinators to society;
- Identifying opportunities for individuals and communities to create or improve pollinator habitats in their area; and
- Providing a broader education to new and experienced beekeepers.

Program management

MU Extension administers the Missouri Master Pollinator Steward program with input and assistance from Missouri State Beekeepers Association volunteers, local and regional beekeeping associations and other stakeholders.

Each group involved in the Missouri Master Pollinator Steward program has unique responsibilities in regard to the management of the program.

MU Extension's responsibilities are:

- To establish, implement and maintain standards for the Master Pollinator Steward program.
- To recruit and train participants in the Master Pollinator Steward program.
- To provide a friendly and supportive environment for the students to benefit their communities, pollinators and the environment.
- To facilitate communication between extension personnel, beekeeping organizations and other stakeholders.
- To routinely evaluate the program on the local level and report the results.

Stakeholder responsibilities are:

- To assist with recruiting and training participants
- To support extension's promotion and organization efforts — which may include providing presenters — for the training.
- To contribute to a friendly and supportive training environment by being cognizant of and abiding by the extension [volunteer code of conduct](#).
- To identify volunteer opportunities for participants after training.
- To work with extension personnel and partner organizations to keep the program current, vibrant and inclusive.
- To assist with program evaluations.

A steering committee will provide collaborative guidance to extension and its stakeholders for this program. This committee will include the following:

- An MU Extension state specialist
- Two MU Extension regional specialists
- A Missouri State Beekeepers Association member volunteer
- Additional members of regional or local beekeeping groups, not to exceed two
- A Master Gardener member volunteer
- A Master Naturalist member volunteer

Training structure

Training will be structured according to the publications included in the Master Pollinator Steward manual. These publications will be enhanced with PowerPoint presentations (or similar presentation tools). It is anticipated that two hours of instruction will be required to adequately cover each of the publications (10 to 15 hours total anticipated). A hands-on or field component to the training is expected.

Volunteer component

There will be no official volunteer component as a requirement for successful completion of the program. However, participants will be encouraged to pursue habitat establishment or improvement projects on an individual or group basis.

Local master pollinator steward organizations

There will be no official local Master Pollinator Steward organizations. Graduates of the program might already be members of a local Master Gardener, Master Naturalist or beekeeping association. Graduates who are not already members of a related organization are not required to join any organization but they may have the option to join a local Master Gardener organization; Master Naturalist organization; local, regional or state beekeeping association; or create or join a pollinator-related organization that is independent of the Master Pollinator Steward program.

Some organizations, such as the Master Gardener or Master Naturalist organizations, may have additional requirements for participation which are not met by completion of the Master Pollinator Steward program.

Local control of program

The decision of whether to hold a training will be made by a regional extension specialist. Trainings may not be held without the approval and/or support of extension specialist(s). Cooperation with local beekeeping associations or other stakeholders is strongly encouraged when planning and delivering a training.

Qualifications for instructors

An individual who teaches a session or sessions of the Master Pollinator Steward program must meet the following requirements:

- A minimum of five years educational or work experience in subject matter
- Ability to present professionally
- Competence in the use of PowerPoint or similar computer software program
- Willingness to learn and follow established curriculum

The regional extension specialist and partner organizations should identify the instructors. However, the ultimate decision as to whether a potential speaker meets the qualification standards will be made by the regional extension specialist. If this decision is challenged, the Master Pollinator Steward Program steering committee can be requested to review the issue.

Program fees

The participant cost for the program (which includes all six chapters and associated presentations) will be based on three fees. They are as follows:

- Statewide fee (remitted to MU Extension to support overall program costs) is currently \$25. This fee will be reviewed by the steering committee on an annual basis.
- A county extension center fee: This amount will be determined by the hosting extension center. The fee covers costs associated with printing publications, presenter travel, stipends, room rental costs, personnel and a donation to the stakeholder group. If the revenue exceeds the expenses, it will be retained by the extension center to support operational expenses.
 - The extension center will handle participant registrations, collecting revenue and paying fees, expenses and donations as described below.

- Assuming a stakeholder group is used, it is highly encouraged that a monetary amount is donated to this group, at a level similar to but not to exceed the statewide fee. This amount should be determined prior to promoting the class.
 - The purpose of this is to create enthusiasm and assistance from volunteer organizations. It is up to the local county extension council to review the stakeholder group's structure and purpose to be certain that a donation is going to an organization that is educational, impartial and open to all citizens.

The program cost is between \$90 and \$100.

- *Example: State fee = \$25
Stakeholder group donation = \$25
County extension fee = \$40
Total cost = \$90.*

Ideas for involving youth:

- Create a project with a 4-H club.
- Offer the program in conjunction with a local high school using their FFA program or similar program.
- Collaborate with Missourians for Monarchs (Under their Conservation Plan, section on 'Outreach and Education'- Goal II, Objective A, Strategy 1)