

# Cornell Cooperative Extension Tompkins County

Compost Education Program  
615 Willow Ave, Ithaca 14850  
Rotline 607-272-2292 x 124  
acml@cornell.edu  
www.ccetompkins.org/compost



## MASTER COMPOSTER VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

***Application Deadline: 11:59pm on Monday, January 26, 2026***

Complete the [online webform](#) or fill out this PDF, save, and email it to Adam Michaelides at [acml@cornell.edu](mailto:acml@cornell.edu). You may also print this PDF, fill it out and return it to the Compost Education Program, CCE-Tompkins, 615 Willow Avenue, Ithaca, NY 14850

If a response requires more space than is provided, please use the Additional Space for Application Responses section on the third page. Complete **all three pages** to be considered for the Program. Call the “Rotline” (607) 272-2292 or email Adam at [acml@cornell.edu](mailto:acml@cornell.edu) with any questions. Thank you for your interest in the Master Composter Program.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Evening/other Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Communication:  email  phone  text  Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date if under 18: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Where did you learn about the opportunity to volunteer as a Master Composter?

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2. a. Have you ever volunteered/worked for Cooperative Extension before:  Yes  No  
b. If yes, give the program position, County/State, and dates

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3. List one or two paid or volunteer position(s) you have had that are related to your application to become a Master Composter volunteer.

Position Title

Organization / Employer

Dates

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4. Please expand upon any:

a. Educational experiences you have had (i.e. classes you've taken, internships) in the areas of waste management, natural resources, soil science, or related fields.

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b. Teaching experiences (formal or informal) related to composting or other subjects.

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5. a. Do you compost at home now, or have you in the past? Yes No  
b. If 'yes', what do you compost? What composting system do you use (i.e., type of bin, if any)? How do you use the finished compost? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Describe your gardening experience. \_\_\_\_\_

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7. What skills would you like to develop as a Master Composter? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. Why do you wish to become a Master Composter? \_\_\_\_\_

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To obtain certification as a Master Composter, volunteers in training are required to attend all training classes and complete a practical internship. After training, new Master Composters participate in Program-sponsored events and community outreach activities. Master Composter trainee selection is based in part on an applicant's ability to fulfill the requirements of the program. For more specifics, see: <http://ccetompkins.org/mc-job-description>

9. a. Check (✓) three of the following Master Composter *training topics* that most interest you.

<input type="checkbox"/> Compost 101/Basics	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Composting	<input type="checkbox"/> Beneficial Role in Soils
<input type="checkbox"/> Compost Systems (bins)	<input type="checkbox"/> Effective Teaching	<input type="checkbox"/> Compost Maturity & Testing
<input type="checkbox"/> Compost & Sustainability	<input type="checkbox"/> Basic Compost Science	<input type="checkbox"/> Compost Harvesting & Use
<input type="checkbox"/> Waste Reduction & Recycling	<input type="checkbox"/> Compost Biology/Ecology	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe below)

b. Which one of these would be your first choice? \_\_\_\_\_

c. Comments (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

10. a. Check (✓) three of the following *volunteer activities* that most interest you.

<input type="checkbox"/> Plan and teach classes/workshops or give presentations to YOUTH groups
<input type="checkbox"/> Plan and teach classes/workshops or give presentations to ADULT groups
<input type="checkbox"/> General education (staff the compost education booth, help friends, neighbors and coworkers set up and manage compost, compost at festivals / public events)
<input type="checkbox"/> Assist with composting at schools or community sites, such as community gardens (build bins, establish compost systems, maintain sites, troubleshoot)
<input type="checkbox"/> Program leadership/development (coordinate events, plan MC training, social media)
<input type="checkbox"/> Update or develop program resources (write articles, create factsheets or posters)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other ways you hope to contribute (describe in comments section below)

b. Which one of these would be your first choice? \_\_\_\_\_

c. Comments (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

11. a. Do you speak language(s) other than English?  Yes  No  
 b. If 'yes', what language(s)? \_\_\_\_\_ c. Fluently?  Yes  No  
 d. Comments (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

If you are selected to train as a Master Composter, you will be asked to provide contact information for two people, not related to you, who have knowledge of your qualifications. We may contact these individuals or ask them to complete a short reference questionnaire.  
**PLEASE LIST TWO PEOPLE WHO WOULD SERVE AS A REFERENCE FOR YOU.**

First and Last Name

Title, or Relationship to You

(reference #1) \_\_\_\_\_

(reference #2) \_\_\_\_\_

12. a. Do you have an independent and reliable means of transportation to and from classes and volunteer activities?  Yes  No  
 b. If 'no', please describe. \_\_\_\_\_

13. a. Do you require accommodations for a disability?  Yes  No  
 b. If 'yes', please describe. \_\_\_\_\_

14. a. Do you now have, or anticipate, any obligations that may prevent you from fulfilling the volunteer commitment to the Program by the end of the calendar year?  Yes  No  
 b. If 'yes', please describe. \_\_\_\_\_

15. The training deposit amount is \$60. It is returned upon completion of volunteer hours after training. Financial assistance is available for candidates in need. Would you like to speak to the Program Manager about receiving financial assistance?  Yes  No

16. **General Availability** ( all that apply)  
 Weekdays  Weekends  
 Day  After School  Evening

17. Approximately how many hours per week do you anticipate volunteering? \_\_\_\_\_

18. What age group do you prefer to work with? ( one)  Youth  Adults

\*Note: individuals selected for Master Composter training will be required to complete the Long Term Volunteer Application which includes volunteer screening: <http://ccetompkins.org/resources/volunteer-application-long-term> . More will be explained during the Master Composter interview.

**ADDITIONAL SPACE FOR APPLICATION RESPONSES  
AND ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (OPTIONAL)**