



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 acm1@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 acm1@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?

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

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.

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

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? _____

6. Describe your gardening experience. _____

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

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

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.
- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ___ Compost 101/Basics | ___ Community Composting | ___ Beneficial Role in Soils |
| ___ Compost Systems (bins) | ___ Effective Teaching | ___ Compost Maturity & Testing |
| ___ Compost & Sustainability | ___ Basic Compost Science | ___ Compost Harvesting & Use |
| ___ Waste Reduction & Recycling | ___ Compost Biology/Ecology | ___ 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.
- ___ Plan and teach classes/workshops or give presentations to YOUTH groups
 - ___ Plan and teach classes/workshops or give presentations to ADULT groups
 - ___ General education (staff the compost education booth, help friends, neighbors and coworkers set up and manage compost, compost at festivals / public events)
 - ___ Assist with composting at schools or community sites, such as community gardens (build bins, establish compost systems, maintain sites, troubleshoot)
 - ___ Program leadership/development (coordinate events, plan MC training, social media)
 - ___ Update or develop program resources (write articles, create factsheets or posters)
 - ___ 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) <input type="checkbox"/> Weekdays <input type="checkbox"/> Weekends <input type="checkbox"/> Day <input type="checkbox"/> After School <input type="checkbox"/> Evening	17. Approximately how many hours per week do you anticipate volunteering? _____	18. What age group do you prefer to work with? (✓ one) <input type="checkbox"/> Youth <input type="checkbox"/> Adults
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*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)**