

FAQ for potential volunteers...



What is Cornell Cooperative Extension?

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) is a non-formal educational program designed to help people use research-based knowledge to improve their lives. CCE is part of the land grant extension system. There are local Cooperative Extension offices in most counties across New York State.



About CCE | <http://cce.cornell.edu/info/about>



What kind of volunteer opportunities are there at CCE?

While most county programs have volunteer opportunities as a part of the 4-H Youth Development program, Master Gardener Volunteer Program, and through

4-H MASTER FOOD PRESERVERS
MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MASTER FOREST OWNERS
ADVISORY COMMITTEES MASTER NATURALISTS

advisory committees, you will find local opportunities based on needs and interests.



Local Offices | <http://cce.cornell.edu/localoffices>



What are the steps to becoming a CCE volunteer?



1 Register for and complete the [pre-volunteer orientation](#) to get to know a little more about CCE.



2 Meet with local CCE Staff to discuss opportunities that are right for you. Consider how much time you are interested in dedicating, your skills and talents, where you are willing to volunteer and what your schedule is.



3 Complete the application form & screening as needed. Whether you want a short-term volunteer experience or a long-term role, CCE has an opportunity for you!



What is a volunteer screening?

Prospective volunteers complete an application form. In addition, those who volunteer to work with vulnerable populations (children, individuals with disabilities, etc.) will be asked to consent to a criminal background screening at Cooperative Extension's expense, as a means of ensuring the safety and security both of our volunteers and of the people we serve through our programs.



Is there volunteer training?

While the [pre-volunteer orientation](#) will get you started, the specific training for your volunteer program begins following your application process. You can anticipate on-going learning opportunities, with greater opportunities available if you have the time and interest. Our volunteers report that volunteering with CCE has helped them to serve the community, growing leadership skills, feed their interests, make positive changes for their families, make friends, and grow skills that can be added to their resume.

Where will I volunteer?

Following your pre-volunteer orientation, we will connect you to your local CCE Office. The following information will help you determine where the closest office is:



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How old do I have to be to volunteer?

You must be 18 or older to enroll as a CCE volunteer. Volunteers who are 18-20, may work with youth yet must be supervised by a volunteer or staff member who is 21. This means those under 21 may not be a 4-H Club Organization Leader yet could serve as a project leader until turning 21.

While youth contribute to CCE in many ways, their volunteerism is considered participation in a program with guidance from an adult mentor. Youth below 18 volunteering their time in any area must have a supervising staff member or volunteer providing education and guidance and must have their parent or guardian complete a permission form. Youth contributing in a 4-H program must be registered in the 4-H Youth Development program as a 4-H member or junior leader.

Where can I learn more about how to help?

Basic information about CCE and volunteer service opportunities can be found in the pre-volunteer on-line orientation. You may also contact your local CCE office for details.



Local Offices | <http://cce.cornell.edu/localoffices>