

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Scholarship Overview: The Richland County Master Gardener Association (RCMGA) is pleased to sponsor four scholarships: *The Louise M. Gantt Scholarship (2)*; and *The Ted Williams Scholarship (2)*. Each will be awarded annually to four eligible Clemson Extension Master Gardener Program candidates. The purpose of these scholarships is to assist selected recipients by paying one-half (\$150) of the \$300 training course fee – a cost that might otherwise prohibit a promising candidate from participating. The scholarships honor Master Gardeners who made significant contributions to both the Program and to RCMGA over many years.

The RCMGA Scholarships and selection process are administered solely by the Richland County Master Gardener Association (RCMGA). The Master Gardener Program and its selection process are administered solely by Clemson University and its Cooperative Extension Service.

Scholarship Process: Anyone applying for the Clemson Extension Master Gardener Program may apply for one of the four RCMGA scholarships. Once accepted by Clemson into the training course, those candidates who have submitted this optional application will be objectively evaluated by RCMGA who will select two recipients for each scholarship. *Scholarship applicants will be notified of selection (or rejection) for financial aid before class begins, but not in time for candidates to withdraw from the program. Therefore, if you feel you cannot apply for the MG Program without a scholarship, please call the contact person below before enrolling in the Course.* Before classes begin, scholarship recipients must pay to Clemson the full \$300 course fee within a time frame communicated by the Area Master Gardener Coordinator. Failure to do so will forfeit both the candidate's enrollment in the Program and the scholarship. On the first day of class, scholarship awards will be announced and each recipient will receive a reimbursement check from RCMGA for \$150 (one-half of the fee paid).

Scholarship Criteria:

1. The applicant must meet all eligibility criteria established by Clemson for the MG Program.
2. The applicant must be a resident of Richland, Fairfield, Kershaw or Lexington County.
3. **The applicant must attach to this form a written statement that includes** (a) a statement of commitment to the scholarship's goal of continued volunteerism, and (b) an explanation of financial need that might prohibit or seriously hinder the applicant's participation in the Program. The candidate may choose to share whatever financial/personal details (s)he deems necessary to establish eligibility, with assurance that disclosed information will remain confidential. We do not ask for specific financial information, figures or documents, but reserve the right to ask that statements be documented if necessary.
4. The scholarship recipient will be chosen only from among those candidates accepted by Clemson into the Master Gardener Program. *Scholarship applicants who are not accepted by Clemson may apply again for a scholarship in subsequent applications to the Program.*
5. Each scholarship recipient must commit to the following:
 - (a) Successful completion of the instructional MG Training Course (student phase);
 - (b) Completion of the MG Program's service obligations (intern phase) under the supervision of RCMGA.
 - (c) Membership in RCMGA for at least one (1) year as a full, certified member.
 - (d) Completion of (and/or involvement in) a specific RCMGA project if requested.

Scholarship Application Instructions:

1. If you wish to compete for one of the four available RCMGA scholarships, please complete this application form (and its supplement – see #3 above) as instructed. If you are not interested in applying for a scholarship, you need not return it.
2. Mail the application form to:

Amelia R. Cotty, RCMGA Scholarship Chair
324 Valley Springs Road
Columbia, SC 29223

or email the application form to: wcotty@sc.rr.com

RCMGA scholarships are offered to adults without regard to race, creed, gender, ethnic origin, age, orientation, disability or marital/family status.