Search for Excellence Award

Our Search for Excellence program allows Extension Master Gardeners to learn from their peers. A judging committee will be looking for outstanding examples of new educational programs, newly developed teaching tools and new ideas, concepts and approaches to Master Gardening. We are looking for those special efforts that will be invited to share their talents with Advanced Training participants.

The project or activity must have been active during the following dates for consideration: January 2018-July 2019. Ongoing projects will be accepted as long as they continued during the specified period.

Search for Excellence Q & A
Four outstanding programs will be selected to receive the Search for Excellence award. All four winners are required to participate in a question and answer panel during the 2019 annual advanced training conference. This panel will take place on Friday, September 13th from 12:30 pm- 1:20 pm. Participation in this session is a requirement to receive the monetary award. The first place winner will be awarded $500, second place $250, third $200 and fourth $100. The prize money will be awarded to the EMG county or district program responsible for teaching the winning program for use in future programs.

Presentation Categories

Youth Gardening Programs: Highlight your work with 4-H members, Junior Master Gardeners, community youth gardens, schools or other youth focused programs.

Reaching New Audiences: Engaging non-traditional audiences in extension programs is a significant challenge in all our program areas. Any program that engages a diverse community audience should be submitted in this category.

Demonstrations: This category is for demonstration gardens, programs that demonstrate gardening techniques or other hands on activities. Photographs are highly encouraged for demonstration gardens.

Utilizing Creative Teaching Tools: Outside of verbal or PowerPoint presentations, how are you reaching your community? Online videos or trainings and answering gardening questions through your website or social media are examples of creative teaching tools.
Search for Excellence Abstract Information

Abstracts for Search for Excellence oral presentations may be submitted via e-mail or mailed to the Search for Excellence Program Coordinator. Proposals must be electronically submitted or postmarked by 5:00 p.m. (CDT), Friday, August 23, 2019. Include a copy of the below entry form and your abstract narrative to describe your entry. The abstract’s narrative should be single spaced with a 300-word maximum length.

Abstracts should cover:
- The project’s target audience
- The project’s objectives
- The importance of the topic to your community
- Its relevance to the category
- A brief description of the instructional techniques used
- The results and impacts of the program or product on your target audience

Presentation abstracts will be judged on the following criteria:
- Useful and relevant (25 points)
- Contributes new knowledge (25 points)
- Clarity and completeness (15 points)
- Appropriate instructional techniques (15 points)
- Consistent with Extension and Master Gardener’s missions (10 points)

You are encouraged to submit photos, charts, diagrams or client feedback/impact to help illustrate your project.

For e-mailed submissions, include the information requested on the entry form as an attachment. Send your e-mail to the Chairperson listed below.

For mailed submissions, send a paper copy of the abstract proposal and this form to the Chairperson below and save a copy for your file.

Chairperson: Ward Upham
2021 Throckmorton Hall, Dept. of HFRR Kansas State University
Manhattan, KS 66506 wupham@ksu.edu
Search for Excellence Entry Form

Title of Presentation: __________________________________________________________

Name of Master Gardener Presenter(s): ____________________________________________

Presentation Category (please circle all that apply):

- Youth Gardening
- Reaching New Audiences
- Demonstration Gardens/Gardening
- Utilizing New Teaching Tools

MG Coordinator/Extension Agent: ____________________________

Primary Presenter’s Address: ____________________________________________________

County or District of EMG Program: ______

Presenter’s Phone Number: ____________________

E-Mail Address: ________________________________

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