

## Master Family & Consumer Sciences Volunteer Program Summary

Institution: University of Florida

Program: **Master Food and Nutrition Volunteer** program

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**Master Food  
and Nutrition  
VOLUNTEER**

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The University of Florida IFAS Extension **Master Food and Nutrition Volunteer** (MFNV) program provides an opportunity for people in local communities to contribute to Extension programs and activities related to all aspects of foods and nutrition. Anyone with an interest in food preservation, food safety, or nutrition can apply to the Florida **Master Food and Nutrition Volunteer** program as long as it is active in their county of residence.

This volunteer program provides training in food science, food preservation, food safety, and nutrition to volunteers who commit to contribute volunteer service in their counties. MFNVs contribute to Extension education activities and programs that help people improve their lifestyles in ways that promote health, reduce disease and illness risk, and help reduce health care costs. The ultimate goal of this program is to build a cadre of volunteers who extend the outreach of Extension foods and nutrition programs and for the volunteer experience to enhance the volunteers' personal knowledge and lifestyle behaviors. Several counties in Florida have trained volunteers to assist with educational programs and activities in food preservation, nutrition, and food safety. Measures of knowledge gained and clientele reached indicate strong potential for significant statewide impacts.

### Program requirements:

- Volunteers will attend at least 40 hours of training classes and pass an examination.
- Volunteers commit to donating at least 40 hours of approved service back to the community.
- Volunteer certification is valid for one year and renewable with approval of the volunteer coordinator.
- Volunteers must pass a background check per county and state requirements.

### Volunteer requirements:

- Have at least a high school diploma or the equivalent.
- Be able and willing to travel to a training site for all classes.
- Enjoy working with adults and/or youth and be willing to share their expertise at Extension Master Food and Nutrition Volunteer projects and events.
- Complete an annual report of volunteer hours and program successes.
- Provide their own transportation to sites.
- Assist in recruiting financial support for educational resources (with prior approval of county Extension Agent/Volunteer Coordinator) and prior approval for all expenses for which the volunteer expects to be reimbursed.