

Financial Education Volunteer

The creation of the Master Financial Education Volunteer (MFEV) Program in Virginia resulted from the need to expand the Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) program in the counties across the Commonwealth. The MFEV Program focuses on helping families build their financial capability through classes on financial topics from budgeting to saving and one-on-one mentorship. This program will help reach current and untapped audiences to provide consumers with up-to-date research-based knowledge so they can improve their financial management techniques and thus their quality of life.

A Virginia MFEV is an individual who acts on behalf of Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) as a volunteer educator/mentor within his or her community after receiving training in FCS through cooperative programming with VCE. These volunteer educators serve as partners with VCE to promote, inform, and work with community leaders, industry and individuals presenting programs on all aspects of FCS, including financial management.

Steps to Becoming a Master Financial Education Volunteer

When you enter the MFEV program, you enter into an agreement. In turn for the training you receive in this program, you pledge to give back a certain amount of volunteer hours to VCE. Upon completion of this training, you have one year to give back the volunteer service hours. Failure to complete this obligation means the individual does not receive the title of MFEV. A minimum of 20 hours will be spent in classroom instruction, and an additional 40 hours (minimum) service annually will be spent on field experience in financial-based, educational programs or one-on-one mentoring. When a person ceases active volunteering with VCE he or she also relinquishes the title of Master Financial Education Volunteer.

Future specialized training opportunities

Advanced training modules provide MFEVs the opportunity to expand the influence of VCE through leadership in their communities and enable MFEVs to get involved in and lead programs that address particular community needs. Specialized training is available in various areas such as investments, retirement and estate planning. Training is also available on special curriculums such as the poverty simulation, Reality Store, and Kids' Marketplace.

Master Financial Education Volunteer Jobs

The title "Master Financial Education Volunteer" should only be used when doing unpaid volunteer work for Extension. It should not be used to imply that VCE is endorsing any product or place of business.

In surveying county agents, many activities have been mentioned as potential jobs for volunteers. You, the volunteer, may have other ideas for programs you may be comfortable in doing. Below are some ideas of activities for volunteers:

- Reality Store
- Kids' Marketplace
- Poverty Simulations
- Support for 4-H Youth Programs and contests
- One-on-One Mentoring
- Classes at DSS, Head Start, community groups, and faith-based organizations of a variety of financial and consumer issues
- In school and after school programs and parent groups
- Assist with Credit Report counseling at VITA tax sites
- Financial education classes for Community Action and Food Pantries
- Create your own!

Program Management, Evaluation, and Reporting Procedures

MFEVs are an expansion of program services of Virginia Cooperative Extension agents. However, the Agent provides leadership for the program. MFEVs may facilitate the use of other volunteers who partner with them in this program. Program planning and goal-setting with the Agent helps determine specific needs and the type of projects to plan. Only materials authorized by the Extension Agent may be used in working with groups or individual clients.

Evaluations are an important way to assess volunteer performance and the adequacy of support from the Extension office, as well as measure satisfaction with volunteer work. This will also help determine if the tasks you are performing are worthwhile to you and for VCE. All program evaluations must be submitted to the local FCS Extension Agent as soon as possible following the completion of the program.

MFEVs are responsible for keeping track of all contacts and volunteer time. At minimum, volunteer hours and contacts need to be reported to the local FCS Extension Agent monthly.