

# **Tillamook County Master Gardener's Association Policies**

## **1.4**

**Subject: Scholarships**

**Responsibility: Scholarship Chairperson**

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Policy Statement: It is the policy of TCMGA to encourage education in horticulture and other life sciences to support both hobby gardening and careers. To that end, TCMGA will fund scholarships for both college education and continuing education. Scholarship recipients may be required to share in the costs of educational programs.

### **Part 1: College Scholarships:**

TCMGA will actively support and fund college scholarship opportunities for Tillamook County college students who are pursuing degrees in horticultural, natural resources, and other agricultural sciences. We believe in continuing education and the advancement of scientific education, research and evidence-based practices to benefit society.

To that end, TCMGA will annually fund a college scholarship(s) through the Tillamook Bay Community College and the TBCC Foundation. TBCC's scholarship committee processes will be utilized to solicit and select scholarship recipients for this scholarship. TCMGA will support that process and may be involved in that process as a consultant as well as in advertising the availability of that scholarship(s), but the decisions as to who shall be recipients shall be the sole decision of TBCC. TCMGA will invite the recipient to a Board and Chapter meeting.

The President of TCMGA shall be the designated signator for contracts and other documents with TBCC, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall include funding for college scholarships in the proposed annual budget.

TCMGA will continue to include on its dues reminder form an opportunity for members to donate additional money to the scholarship. If donations are received over the amount budgeted for the scholarship, TCMGA will increase the amount of scholarship to the total amount donated. If donations come in UNDER the amount budgeted, TCMGA will make up the difference from its operating fund.

The treasurer will send a donor's receipt at the end of each calendar year at donor's request.

### **Part 2: Scholarships for OSU Extension Service Master Gardening classes:**

- TCMGA will provide financial assistance to OSU Extension Service's Master Gardener class participants who are unable to pay the full amount of class tuition.
- Individuals requesting a scholarship will be asked to fill out a scholarship request form describing the amount needed and the need for the scholarship. A committee consisting of the President and two appointed members will review and approve the scholarship applications.
- Recipients will be required to pay either \$25 or 25% of the full cost of tuition, whichever is smaller.
- If the recipient does not complete the class and the required payback hours, the scholarship amount must be repaid.

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## **Part 3: Scholarships for OMGA Mini-College:**

- The TCMGA “Master Gardener of the Year,” “Early Bloomer,” “Learning Garden”, and “Behind the Scenes” awardees will receive scholarships toward registration, room and board expenses at Mini-College and/or toward registration, room and board expenses at the International Master Gardener Conference (IMGC), up to \$300.00 for each awardee.
- Receipts for these expenses shall be presented to the TCMGA Treasurer for reimbursement. Funds may be advanced to the recipient when necessary at the discretion of the Board.
- The TCMGA Mini-College scholarship is available for four years. Since both events are biennial, a member awarded the scholarship who cannot attend Mini-College or IMGC in the first two years following the award, can use the scholarship during the next two years. The awardee is limited to attending only one Mini College and one International Master Gardener Conference during the four-year period.
- If the scholarship is not used within the four-year time period set out above, the allocated funds will revert to the TCMGA General Fund account.
- The Mini-College scholarship is not transferable to another person.