

Gardening

Project Overview

As a 4-H member you will be able to get your hands dirty and learn about the environment, conservation with plants, and how to grow beautiful flowers and hearty vegetables. This project is full of hands on activities where you can grow your own food.

Garden Project Activities

The following are examples of types of activities that should be included in the 4-H Gardening Project. Use these ideas as a guide for your project completion.

Contact your 4-H agent regarding project completion requirements.



Level 1

- Invite a local farmer or County Agent to speak about his job.
- Build a windowsill herb garden.
- Gather information about different types of flowers and collect seeds.
- Make a salad with vegetables that grow in your community.
- Calculate how many days it will take to grow tomatoes, cumpers, peppers, and squash. Compare the difference in time.
- Interview gardeners to learn new skills.

Level 2

- Take a trip to visit a plant nursery and observe how plants are cared for.
- Monitor the weather and find plants that will grow in your zone.
- Create a butterfly garden
- Build and use a raised bed.
- Demonstrate how to harvest vegetables and store them for the winter.
- Make a raised bed garden
- Learn how to germinate seeds in a greenhouse.
- Find out the difference between a fall and spring garden.

Level 3

- Learn about Horticulturists and learn about their job.
- Find out why farming and agriculture are important to the world.
- Demonstrate and share your knowledge on gardening to a younger child.
- Research and create a speech on an aspect of gardening for your class.
- Plant garden seeds to transplant as seedlings and to share with other gardeners.
- Research and create a succulent garden.

Digging Deeper



Books

- From Seed to Plant (the life cycle of plants) by Gail Gibbons
- Gardening Lab for Kids: 52 Fun Experiments to Learn, Grow, Harvest, Make, Play and Enjoy Your Garden (Lab Series) by Renata Fossen Brown
- Gardening Projects for Kids: Fantastic ideas for managing and attracting wildlife to the garden (Environment) by Jenny Hendy

Websites

- <http://gardensproject.org/about/>
- <http://kgi.org/about-KGI?gclid=CNaTurmYo88CFdgWgQodsiMKGg>
- <http://garden.org/>
- <http://extension.uga.edu/garden/> (Junior Master Gardener)

Learning Videos

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qXO5NYV6bCc> (Starting a School Garden)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qnthIB-0Q1w> (MU Extension; Eating from the Garden)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=71jXRxyzl1k> (Maryland Extension; Components of a School Garden)

Leadership Opportunities

- Demonstrate and share your knowledge with younger children or older adults.
- Serve as a project helper to younger youth by helping them set goals and encouraging them to complete them.
- Host a day camp or workshop on gardening for younger students.
- Start a garden project club in your parish.
- Work with school leaders to grow vegetables and flowers at school.

Service Opportunities

- Check with the local plant nurseries to find out if there are any extra plants that can be planted in the community.
- Grow plants from seeds and share the seedlings with others to spread gardening to more families.
- Create a community garden that everyone can visit and share the harvest.
- Help organize an educational community garden event for members to trade and share resources.

Career Possibilities

Farmer
Horticulturist
County Agent
Nursery Owner
Crop Specialist

Weed Scientist
Agriculture Teacher
Food Scientist
Chef
Hobby Gardener

Agronomist
Botanist
School Teacher
Biologist
Forester

Florist
Manage Garden Center
Landscape Architect
Landscape Architect
City planner