

Kids Go Green! Garden Club Program



Junior Eco-Gardeners 4th and 5th Grades

Gardener Volunteer Leader(s)

- Organize and implements a Junior Eco-Garden Club Program for twelve weeks.
- Must commit to 12 – 26 hours of service to the program over one 6-month period.
- Must complete volunteer orientation and adhere to all policies and procedures.
- *1st session* January – May or *2nd session* August –November; each gardening session is four or five months in length, utilizing one weekend day or weekday each month for 4 hours per session
- One garden leader to four – six gardeners per garden club.

Kids Go Green! Junior Eco-Garden Club Program Ground Rules:

- Respect yourself, those around you, and the garden.
- Eat and pick only what you are invited to eat and pick.
- Keep feet on pathways.
- Any other rules appropriate to your safety.

Junior Eco-Gardeners will be able to:

- Have the basic vocabulary of plant sciences and their application to life and work in contemporary society.
- Have a working knowledge of the principles of scientific research and their application in simple projects.
- Understand the processes, techniques, methods, equipment, and available technology of science.
- Understand the sensory, formal, technical, and expressive quality of art.
- Make and use measurements, including those of area and volume.

- Use mathematical skills to estimate, approximate, and predict outcomes and to judge reasonableness of results.
- Understand environmental and personal health.
- Perform a variety of complex motor activities.
- Apply the skills and knowledge gained in this study to decision-making in life situations.
- Read, comprehend, interpret, evaluate, and use written material.

Requirements: Junior Eco-Gardeners must 1) complete the museum's Appalachia, Nature Walk and Rain Forest exhibits; 2) complete the *Kids Go Green!* Garden Scavenger Hunt in the Environmental Education Center; and 3) prepare, plant, maintain and harvest a selected vegetable bed. You must complete 12-26 hours of garden work/service each four- to five-month period.

In The Garden

- Junior Eco-Gardeners will observe and make decisions about a garden based on the conditions needed to create a successful garden.
- Junior Eco-Gardeners will be able to make observations of the environment and chart the location of the sun as it moves across the sky.
- Junior Eco-Gardeners will learn a different kind of charting through direct observation and recording.
- This part of the program helps Junior Eco-Gardeners understand the importance of location. By determining the location and intensity of the sun, decisions about the kinds of plants that can grow are made.

Into the Dirt

- Junior Eco-Gardeners will observe and make decisions about the soil in a garden based on observation and conditions.
- Strategies for gardening will be presented, and Junior Eco-Gardeners will create a checklist based on these ideas.
- Junior Eco-Gardeners will identify what soil is made of and what elements are necessary to condition the soil.

The importance of soil and what the soil needs is emphasized in this part of the program. Junior Eco Gardeners can take a closer look at what elements are in soil, and what is needed to create optimal conditions for a good organic garden.

Into the Water

- Junior Eco-Gardeners will determine the amount of natural water that exists in their garden area.
- Junior Eco-Gardeners will read about techniques in watering and use them in their garden.

The act of watering seems so simple, but it is quite complex. The amount of water needed and the process of watering are parts of a garden's success story. Junior Eco-Gardeners can read about the techniques used to determine the amount of water that a garden gets, and try out some

really unique approaches to watering without wasting. There are a lot of opportunities for math concepts: comparisons, measurement, and conservation.

I'm Hungry

- Junior Eco-Gardeners will be exposed to the basic concepts needed for proper fertilization.
- Junior Eco-Gardeners will read about the nutrients necessary for proper plant growth.

Plants need food in addition to soil, water and sun. This part of the program exposes Junior Eco-Gardeners to the nutrients needed and the way that we provide them to plants through organic fertilization. Looking at a bag of organic fertilizer tells what nutrients are present, and Junior Eco-Gardeners can learn about percentages.

Join Our Garden Club Program Today!

Bucky Smith, Garden Manager/Educator

Children's Museum of Oak Ridge

461 West Outer Drive

Oak Ridge, TN 37830

865-482-1074

bsmith@childrensmuseumofOakRidge.com

