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What is the Junior Master Gardener program?

The Junior Master Gardener program is an international youth gardening program of the University Cooperative Extension network. JMG engages children in novel, "hands-on" group and individual learning experiences that provide a love of gardening, develop an appreciation for the environment, and cultivate the mind.

JMG also inspires youth to be of service to others through service learning and leadership development projects and rewards them with certification and recognition. Youth can explore their world through meaningful horticulture and environmental science activities. The program incorporates service learning and volunteerism, which enables youth to make a positive contribution to their community.

Peer and cross generation mentoring occurs when JMG groups interact with Master Gardeners, community leaders and other volunteers. JMG Kids can be mentors to younger youth, by teaching them about horticulture.

JMG provides an opportunity for youth to interact and bond with nature. As they go through the JMG program, they can learn how to conserve our natural resources and make knowledgeable decisions about the environment.

How the Curriculum Correlates to Washington County Science Standards

First Grade: Soils and Insects

Second Grade: Plant Growth and Development

Third Grade: Ecology and Environmental Horticulture

Fourth Grade: Water

Fifth Grade: Ecology and Environmental Horticulture

JMG Level One



Developed for grades 3 - 5, but adaptable to any elementary grade. The children taking part in JMG Level One can get involved in exploring their world through meaningful activities that strengthen academic achievement, encourage leadership development, personal pride and responsibility, and community involvement.

Youths involved in the program develop critical thinking skills, and the ability to identify community concerns and take action to address them through individual group projects.

Literature in the Garden sm

This curriculum seeks to engage children through powerful garden- and ecology-themed children's books. It uses six books to inspire learning through outdoor activities, creative expression and open exploration. Dozens of hands-on activities encourage leadership development, individual responsibility, community involvement, and the development of critical thinking skills.



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