



 **Mississippi 4-H**
Junior Master GardenerSM Program

Mississippi State
UNIVERSITY
Extension
SERVICE

Information for *Prospective Volunteer Leaders*

Do *you* want to *implement* a program that *improves* life skills?
If so, read on.

What *is the program?*

The 4-H Junior Master Gardenerssm Program (JMGsm) is a national youth gardening curriculum for young people, beginning in third grade. The program provides these learning opportunities:

- Develops leadership, teamwork, and other important life skills.
- Enhances academic achievement.
- Promotes volunteerism and community service.
- Provides environmental and agricultural education.

Who *offers this program?*

The Mississippi State University Extension Service administers the program through 4-H. Community groups also provide support for the program.

How *does the program meet its objectives?*

Students participate in hands-on activities and projects that are featured in the Youth Handbook and the Teacher/Leader Guide, which include these chapters:

- Plant Growth and Development
- Soils and Water
- Ecology and Environmental Horticulture
- Insects and Diseases
- Landscape Horticulture
- Fruits and Nuts
- Vegetables and Herbs
- Life Skills and Career Exploration

When *does the program meet?*

4-H Junior Master Gardenerssm can meet either during or after school.

Where *does the program meet?*

The program can meet in schools, in homes, at after-school child-care facilities, in churches, in community clubs, or in county Extension offices.

Why *does 4-H promote the Junior Master Gardenersm Program?*

Many of today's youth live in an increasingly urbanized, technological society far removed from the simpler, agrarian lifestyles of past generations. Through learn-by-doing activities involving plants and gardening, children can increase their knowledge of the importance of agriculture and the environment.

Texas A&M University research indicates the following:

- Gardening as a group activity can be used as a socialization tool to learn leadership and volunteerism.
- Students who participated in this program developed responsibility in caring for living things.
- Youth in this program increased compassion for people.

The Mississippi 4-H JMGsm Program provides a tremendous opportunity for the state's youth to do the following:

- Enrich and expand their minds through agriculture-based learning activities.
- Broaden their horizons by building character and knowledge.
- Relate to their agrarian roots through "get your hands dirty" activities.

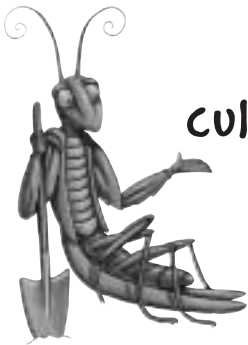
The program has enormous potential to make a positive impact on the following:

- Environmental awareness
- Nutritional habits
- Horticultural knowledge
- Leadership skills
- Volunteerism
- Community involvement

For more information on how your contribution can support the Mississippi 4-H JMG_{sm} Program, contact your county Extension office at _____ .

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cultivating youth and communities through gardening!

msucares.com/lawn/garden/youth/junior

www.jmgkids.com

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