



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



Guidelines for *Volunteer Leaders*

Who *can participate in 4-H JMGsm?*

- Public schools
- Home schools
- Public/botanical gardens
- Scout groups
- Boys or girls clubs
- Private schools
- After-school groups
- Youth clubs
- Church groups

How *is a 4-H JMGsm group started?*

- A teacher, scout leader, Master Gardener, or other volunteer serves as the adult leader for a group of five or more youth.
- The leader uses the 4-H JMGsm Teacher/Leader Curriculum for instruction.
- Use of the Level 1 Youth Handbook is encouraged but is not required for participation.
- The leader registers herself/himself.
- The leader registers the 4-H JMGsm group.
- The county Extension 4-H JMGsm coordinator provides registration forms.

What *does the “sm” mean after the terms JMGsm and Junior Master Gardenersm?*

The term “sm” stands for service mark. JMGsm, Junior Master Gardenersm, Golden Ray Seriessm, and associated logos are service marks of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. Every time these words or logos appear in print, the SM must appear after them in subscript. The Texas disclaimer statement (at the end of this information sheet) must also appear in print in connection with these programs. No JMGsm materials may be modified.

Why *is it important to register a 4-H JMGsm group?*

- Registered youth are eligible for certification in the national program.
- Registered groups are listed on the national and Mississippi JMGsm web sites and could receive some free supplies.
- Registered groups are eligible for contests, awards, and camps.
- Registered youth can receive recognition by becoming certified Junior Master Gardenerssm or by completing Golden Ray Seriessm certification.
- After registration with the 4-H JMGsm state headquarters, the group receives a colorful, official certificate of registration for display.
- Registration allows the group to receive program updates and information from the state and national headquarters.
- Registering does not obligate the group to complete the entire 4-H JMGsm Program or become certified.

What *is the cost of the program?*

Registering a group is free. The only cost of the program is the curriculum and activity supplies. The 4-H JMGsm curriculum costs between \$20-38. There are quantity discounts. Activities in the curriculum require miscellaneous supplies. Most of the activity supplies use recycled materials or items that can be purchased at minimal cost.

When *can the program be started?*

The teacher/leader can decide when to begin because the activities are flexible. Groups can start the program in the fall or in February, just before the spring gardening season. The group can plant a fall garden, do most of the inside activities during the winter, then go back outside in the spring. Groups can have a successful experience without an actual garden plot. Schools can use containers for gardening, avoiding building or cultivating flower beds. Having a garden plot is not a requirement.

Is *4-H JMGsm training required for leading a 4-H JMGsm group?*

No. Training is beneficial for an individual, but it is not required.

Does *a person have to be a Master Gardener to lead a 4-H JMGsm group?*

No. The only requirement is that the 4-H JMGsm teacher/leader be interested in youth development.

How *does a young person become a certified Junior Master Gardenersm?*

He/she must

- belong to a registered 4-H JMGsm group.
- complete one individual activity per teaching concept.
- complete one group activity per teaching concept.
- complete one community service/leadership project per chapter.
- complete one activity from the Life Skills and Career Exploration section of the Level 2 curriculum.

For the Level 1 curriculum, youth must complete 44 individual activities, 44 group activities, and 8 community/leadership projects. For the Level 2 curriculum, youth must complete 8 individual activities, 8 group activities, 1 Life Skills and Career Exploration Activity, and 1 community/leadership project.

Is *there a time requirement for 4-H JMG_{sm} certification?*

No. The 4-H JMG_{sm} Program is flexible. Registered groups can achieve certification within one school year, but this isn't always feasible. All groups are encouraged to set the goal of becoming certified Junior Master Gardeners, but certification is not a requirement for registered 4-H JMG_{sm} groups.

How *is the curriculum organized?*

Level 1 (grades 3-5) contains eight chapters in the Youth Handbook and the Teacher/Leader Guide.

The Teacher/Leader Guide contains the group activities from the eight chapters, which are integrated into math, science, language arts, and social studies. They also include corresponding work sheets, fun pages, songs, and additional resource materials for the instructor. The Mississippi State University Extension Service has keyed all activities in the curriculum guide to Mississippi teaching standards.

The Youth Handbook contains hands-on activities for young people and complements the Teacher/Leader Guide. Level 2 (grades 6-8) combines the Teacher/Leader Guide and reproducible pages of independent student handbook activities into a single book. Each level of curriculum offers ideas for leadership/community service projects.

When *will Level 2 and Level 3 be available?*

The Texas Agricultural Extension Service of Texas A&M University is developing other modules of the Level 2 curriculum (grades 6-8). Some preliminary work has been completed on Level 3 curriculum (grades 9-12), but it will likely be several years before it is available.

What *is a Golden Ray_{sm}?*

It is a recognition offered to youth who complete a small part of the 4-H JMG_{sm} Program. Groups can choose to focus on one chapter or topic. There are two options to choose from. *Option One:* Choose one of the eight chapters in the handbook, and do two (instead of one) group activities, two (instead of one) individual activities, and one service learning project. A youth achieves Gold Ray_{sm} certification in that particular chapter. *Option Two:* A thematic unit can be completed. These units combine a variety of activities from all subject units to focus on one topic. *The Health and Nutrition in the Garden* book is the first installment of this series.

Can *youth in grades other than grades 3-8 be registered in this program?*

Yes. Younger and older youth (grades K-12) can be registered as 4-H JMG_{sm} members. Youth of all ages are welcome in the program.

Does *the program have to be completed one chapter at a time, beginning at Chapter 1?*

The chapters do not need to be completed in any order. However, it is suggested that the program begin with Chapters 1 and 2. They are the basis for many of the other activities within the program and may provide a greater understanding of gardening if followed in that order. The teacher/leader of the group makes the decision based on the climate and the needs of the group.

What *can youth do after they receive Level 1 certification?*

- Youth can continue in the 4-H JMG_{sm} program by
- working as junior leaders with teachers, Master Gardeners, and others to start 4-H JMG_{sm} groups.
 - recruiting new 4-H JMG_{sm} members.
 - participating in additional volunteer opportunities.
 - being local spokespersons for the 4-H JMG_{sm} Program in their communities.
 - completing Golden Ray Series_{sm} certification for any of the eight chapters in Level 1.
 - completing a stand-alone Golden Ray Series_{sm} curriculum.
 - working on Level 2 4-H JMG_{sm} certification.

What *are the responsibilities of a 4-H JMG_{sm} Program volunteer leader?*

- Participate in program training and 4-H club management as needed.
- Complete and return all registration forms (Form 1041, Form 1042, and Form 1043) to the county 4-H agent.
- Register self as a 4-H volunteer leader (forms provided by/ returned to county 4-H JMG_{sm} coordinator).
- Register the club youth as 4-H members (forms provided by/ returned to county 4-H JMG_{sm} coordinator).
- Acquire the appropriate curriculum.
- Serve as the instructor or coordinator.
- Distribute the provided letter to parents, giving information and seeking permission (a parent must sign a provided form and return it to the leader for the child to participate).
- Distribute information to 4-H JMG_{sm} participants.
- Participate in evaluating and reporting 4-H JMG_{sm} activities.
- Return borrowed 4-H JMG_{sm} manuals or materials to the county Extension office when the program is completed.
- Encourage youth to participate in related 4-H programs.
- Cooperate with the county 4-H JMG_{sm} coordinator if participation in other 4-H activities is required by the coordinator.
- Use the expertise of Extension faculty, Master Gardeners, and other community and horticultural leaders as resource people for the 4-H JMG_{sm} Program.
- Provide recognition for 4-H JMG_{sm} participants.
- Publicize the club's achievements.

Who *are resource people for the 4-H Junior Master Gardener_{sm} Program clubs?*

- County Extension 4-H agents (county 4-H JMG_{sm} coordinators)
- Area horticulturists
- Green Industry personnel
- Master Gardeners
- State Extension specialists
- Community and civic leaders
- Garden club members

msucares.com/lawn/garden/youth/junior

www.jmgkids.com

By Lelia Scott Kelly, Ph.D., Assistant Extension Professor, and Sonja Skelly, Ph.D., former Consumer Horticulture Specialist, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences.

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