



Information for Volunteer Leaders and Prospective Sponsors

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

What is the program?

The 4-H Junior Master Gardener® program (JMG) 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 Gardeners can meet either during or after school.

Where does the program meet?

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

Why does 4-H promote the Junior Master Gardener program?

Many young people 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 JMG program provides a tremendous opportunity for young people in the state to:

- 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

How can you support this program?

Won't you join us as a volunteer leader or sponsoring partner in providing this wonderful program for young people in Mississippi?

For more information on how you can support the Mississippi 4-H JMG program or become a volunteer leader, contact your county Extension office (<http://extension.msstate.edu/county-offices>).

extension.msstate.edu
www.jmgkids.us

The terms Junior Master Gardener, JMG, and Golden Ray Series, and associated logos, are service marks of the Texas Cooperative Extension.

Information Sheet 1551 (POD-08-18)

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Produced by Agricultural Communications.

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Extension Service of Mississippi State University, cooperating with U.S. Department of Agriculture. Published in furtherance of Acts of Congress, May 8 and June 30, 1914. GARY B. JACKSON, Director