



Illinois 4-H Signature Program Overview

Junior Master Gardener

Extension Grand Challenge: Food - Food Production

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION: A 10-week unit of study that is hands-on and academically rich developed by the 4-H program at Texas A & M; Learn, Grow, Eat & GO! The curriculum marks the culmination of 5 years of research into the impact of the JMG program on children, schools, and families. It incorporates the best practices identified by the research and combines the interdisciplinary elements of nutrition, garden science, physical activity, food preparation, and fresh vegetable tastings to improve the health and wellness of children, families, and the school/learning community.

TARGET AUDIENCE: Youth in grades from Pre-K to 5 in settings such as 4-H clubs, 4-H Federations, in-school and after- school programs and other positive youth development settings.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Learn about plant science basics and plant care skills
- Provide hands-on experience with gardening through accessible and culturally relevant activities
- Expose young people to new and nutritious food choices
- Increase physical activity in and out of the classroom
- Practice teamwork and collaboration skills in the context of plant care and gardening.
- Strengthen their understanding of where their food comes from through hands-on learning

TOOLKIT

Supported Curricular Resources – See Base Curriculum Page Below

- **Junior Master Gardener:** [Learn, Grow, Eat & GO!](#)
 - Junior Master Gardener 'Learn, Grow, Eat & GO' curriculum toolkit is for grades Pre-K - 5 and is available in English and Spanish.

Gardening Tools

As part of your registration for the Junior Master Gardener signature program, you can receive curricular resources as well as material resources to support your gardening / agriculture-related education program. Below is a list of materials that might be considered for your programming. Materials purchased by your Unit can be reimbursed by the State 4-H Office as funds last through the Signature Program process.

- 72 Cell Seed Starting Tray
- Monarch Sanctuary Seed Kit
- 35 Pack Garden Vegetable Seed Kit
- Gardening Tool Tote Bag
- 30 Gallon Canvas Gardening Grow Bag
- Organic All Purpose Gardening Soil
- Gardening Gloves (Youth)
- 2 Gallon Watering Can
- Mini Shovel D - Handle X 10
- 3 pc Garden Hand Tools X5





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CROSS-EXTENSION, CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

- Horticulture, Small Farms/Local Foods Educators and SNAP-Ed Educators
- Local Master Gardeners
- Food banks, food pantries
- Community and civic organizations
- In-School and After-School programs

OPTIONAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES/ EXPERIENCES

Clubs or groups looking for more opportunities to work with the Junior Master Gardener program can register their group with the JMG organization. More details on this process can be found on their website;

<https://jmgkids.us/>

REGISTRATION

Please register at the signature program intent to participate form distributed from the State 4-H Office.

FUNDING SUPPORT

The primary funding source made available through the State 4-H Office is to support the purchase of the curricular and material resources needed to achieve your programming goals. Groups should coordinate program expenses with their Unit Extension Office. Collaborations with local donors are also recommended where possible.

Additional funding to support programmatic costs is also available from the Food Advocacy Grants which are available several times a year through the State 4-H Office. See the following link for more information: [Gardening, Agriculture and Food Access Page](#)

Funding available in partnership with U of I Extension Master Gardener program through the Know More, Grow More grant. Details on how to apply are available from Candice Hart, State Master Gardener Specialist at mille116@illinois.edu

EVALUATION TOOL

Youth Participants: A Qualtrics based evaluation tool will be shared with you after registering through the Signature Programs process.

If you need a paper copy, please contact Mark Becker: mbbecker@illinois.edu

