



Junior Master Gardener® Program

“Growing Good Kidssm”

The Junior Master Gardener® (**JMG**®) program is meeting with great success in states around the country. Our main objective is to expand this program and preserve its high quality standards for the benefit and enjoyment of school-aged kids across the nation; we invite your cooperative Extension service to participate as the primary **JMG**® point of contact for your state.

Extension is ideally poised to deliver the **JMG**® program to the nation and beyond. Collective resources of expert faculty and volunteers (i.e., 4-H and Master Gardener) ensure Extension’s ability to disseminate the **JMG**® program and activities effectively and efficiently.

Junior Master Gardener®, **JMG**® and associated logos have been service marked and the handbooks are copyrighted by the Texas AgriLife Extension to legally protect and ensure the educational quality of the program.

We welcome your cooperative Extension service to use the **JMG**® program with its handbooks and guidelines to establish a **JMG**® program in your state. If you wish, please become familiar with the implementation and management guidelines contained in the **JMG**® Teacher/Leader Guide – Level 1.

During the development of the **JMG**® program, great effort was made to integrate flexibility within the guidelines of the program, thus allowing each participating agency to customize the program to their needs and characteristics of their state, county or community. Through the **JMG**® program and its guidelines, children across the United States will share common experiences in gardening and community service. For many children, this will culminate in gaining national certification as a Junior Master Gardener®.

Not all **JMG**® groups are affiliated with Extension. When non-Extension organizations from your state (i.e., schools, Scouts, Boys & Girls Club) register a **JMG**® group through the National **JMG**® Program Office, you will be forwarded a copy of the registration. Your state office then has the flexibility to directly or indirectly support such groups.

*If your cooperative Extension service would like to become the primary **JMG**® point of contact in your state, we ask that you:*

- ❖ appoint a state **JMG**® coordinator. The state coordinator would direct implementation and management for the state **JMG**® program, to include facilitating registration of **JMG**® groups, issuing group participation certificates, and corresponding with the National **JMG**® Program Office.
- ❖ use the **JMG**® handbooks, guidelines, service marks and logos to support youth gardening educational programs. Adherence to the program guidelines described in the **JMG**® Teacher/Leader Guide is essential to maintaining the integrity and quality of the program.
- ❖ Begin developing a document that correlates the **JMG**® Teacher/Leader to your respective state teaching standards for grades 3 through 5.

*The National **JMG**® Program Office will provide the following support for state **JMG**® programs:*

- ❖ develop/approve new program curricula and materials (i.e., Level 2, Level 3, Golden Ray Seriessm)

- ❖ issue certificates to youth who complete the **JMG**[®] certification requirements; participating Cooperative Extension Services would have their seals/logos displayed on the certificates
- ❖ assist states in starting **JMG**[®] programs
- ❖ assist in or conduct adult leader training for the program
- ❖ assist states in pursuing financial support and grants for **JMG**[®] programs
- ❖ maintain national database of **JMG**[®] programs and registered groups
- ❖ maintain national website for the **JMG**[®] program
- ❖ maintain correspondence with other state **JMG**[®] coordinators
- ❖ publish and distribute **JMG**[®] handbooks and materials
- ❖ provide instruments/questionnaires to evaluate **JMG**[®] programs
- ❖ protect program quality and integrity through adherence to **JMG**[®] guidelines
- ❖ protect and enforce **JMG**[®] service marks and copyrighted materials

State cooperative Extension services and other youth organizations would not be empowered or authorized to:

- ❖ modify the guidelines of the **JMG**[®] program
- ❖ modify the **JMG**[®] or Golden Ray SeriesSM handbooks and curricula
- ❖ create or develop new **JMG**[®] or Golden Ray SeriesSM curricula
- ❖ create or develop **JMG**[®] or Golden Ray SeriesSM merchandise to be sold and/or distributed
- ❖ restrict other youth educational organizations from implementing an authorized **JMG**[®] program

We would be thrilled if your cooperative Extension service chooses to participate in the **JMG**[®] program. If your agency chooses to participate in the **JMG**[®] program please send us a letter designating your **JMG**[®] coordinator to the address below.

Please contact us should you have any comments or questions.

National **JMG**[®] Program Office
 225 Horticulture/Forestry Sciences Building
 Texas AgriLife Extension
 The Texas A&M University System
 College Station, Texas 77843-2134
 Office: 979.845.8565
 Fax: 979.845.8906
 Website: www.jmgkids.us

I agree to be the guidelines of the **JMG**[®] state partnership program and should be listed as the designated contact person for my state:

Name & Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Email address: _____

Signature: _____

