

Junior Master Gardener® Curricula and Research Results

Level one curricula:

Junior Master Gardener® Teacher/Leader Guide (leader guide 416 pp.)

Ever suck a bug or make mud pies to evaluate soil texture? This guide provides teachers with the tools to teach the world of gardening with eight chapters of novel, "hands on" activities for youth. The program includes a study of life skills and career exploration then culminates the JMG experience with service learning projects and certification for youth.

Junior Master Gardener® Handbook (children's book 192 pp.)

The JMG Handbook complements the Level One Teacher/Leader Guide with eight chapters of independent, discovery learning activities for elementary-aged youths.

Health and Nutrition from the Garden™ (leader guide 230 pp.)

Children will want to eat the fruits of their labor in their study of Health and Nutrition from the Garden. This imaginative curriculum teaches children that growing and eating nutritious fruits and vegetables can be rewarding and fun.

Wildlife Gardener™ (leader guide 230 pp.)

The National Wildlife Federation® and the JMG Program have joined forces to create an engaging experience for kids. As Wildlife Gardeners, children will learn about local wildlife and create garden habitats. Students can culminate their learning through community service by developing a NWF® Certified Schoolyard Habitat®

Literature in the Garden™ (leader guide 212 pp.)

Cultivate the connection between children's gardening experiences and 6 award-winning children's books with this rich and novel curriculum. Literature in the Garden addresses teaching standards and allows students to culminate learning through service projects

Teachers Say!

"All the hands-on learning has made the students' minds so much more absorbent, especially when I have to lecture. It's not like talking to a wall anymore. This program is changing and enriching lives in Los Fresnos!" - David Day, Teacher, Palmer-Laasko School



Level two curricula:

Operation Thistle: Seeds of Despair™ (leader guide 190 pp.)

While engaging in a mission to defeat the cunning Dr. Thistle, middle school and jr. high youths can take part in a novel, "hands on" study of Plant Growth and Development, and participate in service learning projects while earning certification as a Junior Master Gardener.

Operation W.A.T.E.R.: Dr. Thistle Goes Underground™ (leader guide 221 pp.)

Through dozens of engaging and fun activities, students can investigate important soil and water concepts, take part in service learning projects, and earn Junior Master Gardener certification – all while undertaking an urgent mission to foil the newest plans of Dr. Thistle! This curricula is correlated to academic standards while covering topics of soil texture, wetlands, aquifers, soil nutrients, the water cycle, soil structure, and soil and water conservation.

Research Based

- * "results show once weekly use of gardening activities and hands-on classroom activities help improve science achievement test scores." (Smith and Motsenbocker, 2005)
- * "students in the experimental group did significantly increase their overall life skills scores" (Robinson and Zajicek 2005)
- * "... students enjoyed the program, shared what they learned with others, and wanted to participate in more JMG and gardening type activities." (Dirks and Orvis, 2005)

Administrators Say!

"JMG is a hands-on program aligned to the academic standards and includes many outdoor, large muscle gardening activities. It is so refreshing for our students to be able to cover academic standards in other than a test format. The children enjoy the activities!" - Kathleen E. Coburn, Ph.D., Director of Math, Science, Gifted Education, Temple ISD

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