

The **Junior Master Gardener** program is a way to:

- > **TEACH** gardening, ecology and nutrition through experiential learning
- > **FOSTER** the growth of leadership skills in youth and increase parental involvement in your community
- > **BUILD** a sense of pride and personal responsibility among students
- > **PROVIDE** service learning experiences so youth can positively impact their school and community
- > **RECOGNIZE** students' hard work and contribution to the community with unique forms of recognition
- > **PREPARE** students for greater academic achievement

MARION COUNTY

4-H JUNIOR MASTER GARDENERS®

Purdue University
Junior Master Gardeners®
Facilitated through
Indiana 4-H

Purdue Extension/Marion County Office
6640 Intech Blvd Suite 120
Indianapolis, Indiana. 46278
jjones@purdue.edu

For Indiana JMG info statewide :
Dr. Kathryn Orvis, 765-494-8439
orvis@purdue.edu
www.four-h.purdue.edu/staff/home/kathryn/default.html

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University
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JMG is a program
for youth of all ages
that uses fun
activities to teach
horticultural and
environmental
sciences concepts.

In Marion County
contact Jeffrey
Jones at
jjones@purdue.edu
Purdue Extension
6640 Intech Blvd.
Suite 120
Indianapolis, In.
46278

317-275-9305, ext. 268

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The curriculum is supported nationally with support from Texas A&M University. In Indiana, the program is supported through available training and support through Purdue University, Department of 4-H Youth Development. Indiana state educational proficiency standards are correlated for math, reading, language arts and science, including several 'garden-themed' (standardized test-formatted) reading passages are included in the Teacher Guide.

The curriculum is available for sale through Texas A&M University. Check out www.jmgkids.com or check with the State or Marion County 4-H Office for availability.

LEVEL I has both a youth handbook (also available in Spanish!) and a teacher/leader guide, targeting grades 3-5 and including chapters/themes on :

- > Plant Growth and Development
- > Soils and Water
- > Ecology and Environmental Horticulture
- > Landscape Horticulture
- > Insects and Diseases
- > Vegetables and Herbs
- > Fruits and Nuts
- > Life Skills and Career Exploration

LEVEL II, "Operation Thistle": Seeds of Despair; Plant Growth and Development, geared toward grades 6-8, combines the teacher/leader guide with reproducible pages of the youth handbook into one book. Through dozens of activities students can investigate Plant Growth and Development, take part in service learning projects and earn certification all while being engaged in an urgent mission to defeat Dr. Thistle.

The **GOLDEN RAY** series provides youth with the chance to learn in-depth, specific areas of horticulture and environmental sciences. The first **GOLDEN RAY** release, "Health and Nutrition from the Garden is now available addressing: Gardening Basics, Food Safety, Growing Techniques, ABC's of Healthful Eating, Thrifty Gardens and Healthful Snacks.

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Another option for participating in the GOLDEN RAY series is to earn certification with a more in-depth study of a single chapter in the LEVEL I or II texts. This is an excellent option for summer camps and summer programs or classrooms with only a week or two for gardening study.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

- > Youth clubs and groups
- > Public/private schools
- > After-school programs
- > Public/botanical gardens and more!

HOW DO YOU START a

Junior Master Gardeners® group?

- > Contact youth, organize group
- > Establish site
- > Complete registration
- > Obtain JMG® materials

WHAT'S IT COST?

- > Registration is FREE!
- > Curriculum/activities needs and supplies/inexpensive!
- > Any gardening supplies used

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

- *"Do you have to be enrolled 'in 4-H' to participate?"*
- No, not at all though adult volunteers who are not classroom teachers are expected to complete Indiana 4-H volunteer certification requirements.
- *"Do you have youth who will 'go out' into the community, doing cleanup/service-type projects?"*
- No, each group, regardless of method of participation determines its own unique service project. Service opportunities are welcome but not assigned.

- *"What's available for grades K-2 and 9-12?"*
- The K-2 curriculum is presently being written and should be available in the next several months and the grades 9-12 component considered after that. Many groups have proven successful utilizing the currently available curriculum as a resource for lower and higher grades, taking into consideration the unique educational needs and traits of the participating ages of youth.

- *"Do you (meaning Extension 4-H staff) 'come out' and work directly with the youth participants?"*

- The maximum impact of Extension 4-H staff is realized when training adult volunteers/teachers on proper curriculum usage and serving as horticultural resource.

- *"How do I get involved, either as an adult facilitator or youth participant?"*

- Call, write or email a contact listed in this brochure.

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