

JUNIOR GARDENING

Budget: _____

Members: 10+

The Junior Gardening Committee mentors children from the Traverse City Parks and Recreation Summer Camp Program. At present approximately 70 children ranging from seven to twelve years old attend a once a week program. The program normally begins the second week in June through the second week in August.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHAIR OR CO-CHAIRS:

1. Contact the City Parks and Recreational Department in late March. (Contact person is Shelia Dodge 922-4900, Ext. 144). Her office is in the Parks and Recreation office on Woodmere.
2. Obtain a list of Junior Gardening committee members before March 1st to set up a meeting to plan the year's program.
3. Communicate with the Junior Gardening committee members on planned activities and notify members of rain cancellations.
4. Prepare expense report for treasurer and a final report for the president.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

1. The beds for the gardens are prepared beforehand by the interns from the Grand Traverse Area Children's Garden. Plants are ready and delivered prior to planting day, usually the second week in June. Committee members are invited and encouraged to attend GTACG planning sessions in March, April and May that are held at the Traverse Area District Library.
2. Prior to the opening of the gardens there is an annual plant sale, which is always held on the Saturday after Mother's Day on the front lawn of the library. Funds go directly towards running the garden or intern scholarships.
3. The Parks and Recreational summer students start the second Thursday in June. The students are brought by adult counselors, who manage and handle any problems they may encounter with the children. Our members are there to mentor the children when they plant and tend the gardens. The committee members will present educational programs on gardening, environment, nutrition, flower arranging and more.

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EXAMPLE SCHEDULE:

WEEK 1: Plant the gardens and start journals.

WEEK 2: View the gardens. Identify weeds and pull. Talk about bugs, worms or invite a program speaker. The Children's Garden does have a budget to give a small fee to pay a speaker.

WEEK 3: View the gardens.

WEEK 4: During the week of Cherry Festival, the children DO NOT ATTEND the gardens. During Garden Walk the intern students meet with the children. If you are not on the garden walk committee, you can sign up for the late shift and still make the one-hour morning session with the children.

WEEK 5 & 6: Programs, harvest and eating.

Depending on the weather, members may meet with the children for one hour six to eight times. Not all members are required for each meeting with the children. A schedule will be made to be sure that we have enough coverage for each week.

The second Thursday in August the committee helps with the Harvest and Awards Night, which usually occurs at 7 p.m. in the garden.

NOTE: Refer to the Junior Gardening handbook for the history of Junior Gardening activities and the history of the Children's Garden.