



+ GrowingGreat

OUR MISSION: to empower every child to grow up healthy through science-based garden and nutrition education

GrowingGreat programs inspire school children and teens, families, civic leaders, community organizations and businesses to become leaders in promoting healthy food choices through our hands-on STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) garden and nutrition education programs. Since our founding in 1999, our nonprofit organization has served over 250,000 children, teens and families. The first GrowingGreat kids are now 21 years old!

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: We train and manage more than 150 parent volunteers per year via a virtual education portal. Parents watch interactive videos and have access to all the tools needed to deliver Classroom Nutrition (five 35-minute lessons for grades 3-5; three for grades K-2), and School Garden Programs (lessons, plantings, and garden projects for both Fall and Spring seasons, grades K-5). All lessons support State Content Standards, Nutrition Competencies, federal District Wellness Policy requirements, Common Core Standards and Next Generation Science Standards.

HIGH SCHOOL: GrowingGreat provides leadership opportunities for high school students while supporting their school health and science curriculum. Our GrowingGreat Chefs program empowers teens to shop, cook and eat healthy as they become independent. Science comes alive in our Community Garden program in which teens learn how to grow their own vegetables and then share what they've learned with elementary students. Current high school partners include: Chadwick School (Palos Verdes), Environmental Charter (Lawndale) and St. Pius X St. Matthias (Downey).

PRESCHOOL: GrowingGreat is on the leadership team of the Early Childhood Community of Practice for the Association of Science-Technology Centers where we are active in sharing best practices for preschool activities in hands-on science, garden and nutrition education. Our education portal includes some of these activities for adaptation in our K-2 Garden and Nutrition programs.

BILINGUAL FAMILIES:

GrowingGreat reaches out to parents and children learning English together through our “Play with your food/Juguemos con la comida” and “A Drink of Water/Un poco de agua” at-home activity series available on our Hablamos Español page. We belong to the Choose Health L.A. Kids Coalition, a group of Spanish-speaking parents who take a leadership role in improving children’s health in the inner city, part of Para Los Niños (Los Angeles).

GIRL SCOUTS: GrowingGreat offers a cooking independence program for grades 6-12 where girls can earn badges while learning about nutrition and how to cook healthy, seasonal and tasty meals.

CELEBRITY CHEFS & FARMERS MARKETS:

GrowingGreat builds relationships between restaurants and/or farmers markets and their local schools. This includes chefs volunteering at our special events and in our school gardens and students going behind the scenes in neighborhood restaurants. We are delighted that Manhattan House restaurant has chosen us as their community partner.



OUR PARTNERS: GrowingGreat is passionate about reaching out to underserved audiences across the country. We are building collaborations with community programs that support children learning English and learning to read, and support parent/child activities that foster an understanding of the connection between the seed they put in the ground and the food they eat. We welcome museum and library partners, both in-school and after-school educators, to join us in empowering every child to grow up healthy. Some of our current partners include: Bootheel Youth Museum (MO), Children’s Library Discovery Center (NY), Discovery Children’s Museum (NV), Discovery Museums (MA), Explora (NM), Imagine Children’s Museum (WA), Lawndale Public Library (CA), National Ag Science Center (CA), Oklahoma Wondertorium, Richstone Family Center (CA) and Saint Louis Science Center (MO).

EDUCATIONAL THEMES:

- 1) Plants, animals and people all need food and water to grow.
- 2) Fruits and vegetables are grown in gardens. You can grow them yourself and eat what you grow.
- 3) Science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) experiences are closely related and can all be found in your garden.
- 4) You feel better when you eat a variety of colorful, whole foods that are close to their original source.
- 5) Wherever you live, we will help you find healthy, local, seasonal, and organic foods in a store or farmers market near you.
- 6) Making healthy food choices affects your overall well-being so that you can think, feel, and perform at your best all day long.



“I learned healthy foods are the yummiest foods.

– Ariana, Grade 3



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