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Dear (Volunteer),

Gardens offer unparalleled benefits for the nurturing of young bodies and minds, and Cornell Garden-Based Learning (CGBL) provides the necessary gardening resources and professional development to support engaging, empowering, and relevant learning experiences for children. Research has shown that garden-based learning engages young people and creates a vibrant foundation for integrated learning and youth development. However, to effectively implement this learning strategy, our organization needs **the complete cooperation of hardworking and dedicated volunteers.**

The seeds of our garden will surely grow from community involvement and cooperation. Gardens function best with many dedicated volunteers, staff, parents, or educators to assist. We seek your support and assistance as we move forward. It is important for volunteers to fulfill their assigned responsibilities and to share their enthusiasm about gardening – encouraging youth participation is key to the success of our program. With the integrated support of volunteers and excited participants, the establishment of our garden will proceed easily and efficiently, and the rewards will surely be plentiful.

Gardens engross students in active and engaging real-world experiences. Research has evaluated the use of garden-based learning, and the results are clear – gardens provide a solid foundation for the education and growth of young minds. Kids step outside the classroom and receive new opportunities for physical activity. As American kids spend less time outside, and the rate of obesity rises, gardens provide an excellent way to encourage healthy eating habits and physical recreation.

Studies show that garden-based learning increases standardized test scores and improves youth behavior. By encouraging kids to work together, the program promotes responsibility,

patience, and cooperation. Research shows that nature brings children (and communities) closer together.

(This paragraph should provide information on ways to volunteers, e.g. how can they volunteer? what jobs are available? How much time should they anticipate giving? Who should they contact? Are there any meetings they can attend? Are there any additional resources to read?)

A garden project is your golden opportunity to get to know and work with others in the community – plus, it will *certainly* benefit our local kids. As our project continues to progress, and we sow the seeds of youth development, we hope we can count on your support. The time you volunteer can make a tremendous difference in the lives of our children.



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension

Cornell Garden-Based Learning

