2017 Cornell Garden-Based Learning Leadership Certificate & Mini-Grant

Request for Applications

Applications are due by December 2, 2016. Please email applications and/or questions to Fiona Doherty at fcd9@cornell.edu.

Cornell Garden-Based Learning (CGBL) is requesting applications from county-based Cornell Cooperative Extension teams to enroll in the 2017 Cornell Garden-Based Learning Leadership Certificate program and to establish garden-based learning projects in their county.

Why participate? Become a more confident and knowledgeable garden-based learning educator and program organizer, and connect with and learn from others with the same purpose. Receive a $1000 mini-grant for a garden-based learning project in your community.

Availability: The CGBL Leadership Certificate and mini-grants will be awarded to CCE county-based teams of 2-3 paid CCE staff members. One team member must have responsibilities in 4-H youth development and one must have responsibilities in another program area such as horticulture, nutrition or community development.

Funding: CGBL will support four CCE teams for the certificate program. Each mini-grant will be $1000 per team. Funding may be used for any and all necessary supplies including: plant materials, supplies, fencing, raised bed materials and signage.

About the Project:
The CGBL Leadership Certificate: the four teams will meet monthly with CGBL Educator Enrichment Specialist, Fiona Doherty, via WebEx for six months (January to June). Each month’s module will focus on a different aspect of CGBL program planning and will include exercises and reflection. This educator enrichment opportunity will provide participants with the necessary skills to become garden-based learning leaders in their communities. Each participant will receive a Certificate of Completion after fulfilling all portions of the program.

Outcomes & Benefits:
• Understand the foundations and benefits of garden-based learning
• Explore and identify available resources, case studies, research, and successful school and community-based garden programs
• Utilize logic models to identify program inputs, activities, and desired outcomes
• Practice and develop a garden-based learning program in alignment with program needs
• Build a toolbox of resources and portfolio of program planning, deliverables, and strategies for program sustainability
• Utilize strategies to organize a community of volunteers and identify leadership
• Collaborate with a community of learners; connect with and learn from others with the same purpose

*The Mini-Grants:* After completing the CGBL Leadership Certificate, teams will use the mini-grant funds to apply what they have learned and develop a garden-based learning project or program in their community. Funds will support county garden-based learning programs that engage youth, families and their communities. Further guidance from CGBL will be provided as needed and the project will close with a reflective wrap-up meeting in September.

Examples of potential garden-based learning projects include:
• Develop a rain garden and connect it to STEM activities related to hydrology, weather and climate.
• Develop a Vegetable Variety Trial Garden (VVTG) at your CCE office; participate in the annual CGBL VVTG program and host youth development programs in the demonstration garden
• Guide a team of older youth to lead a community-based growing project focused on healthy eating in an intergenerational setting with older adults, and share it with others at the NYS Fair as an example of a STEM project with a strong civic engagement component.
• Use *Dig Art! Cultivating Creativity in the Garden* as a springboard for drawing garden interest to summer programs involving community members of diverse ages and abilities.

*Submission:* Please submit a 2-3 page single-spaced proposal, explaining why your team is interested in the CGBL Leadership Certificate and outlining your plans for a garden-based learning project in your county program.

Required:
• Please provide the name, contact information and positions of the proposed team members.

Preference will be given to proposals that explicitly address the following:
• Why is your team interested in the CGBL Leadership Certificate? What do you hope to gain? How will you apply what you’ve learned?

• What are the logistics of your garden-based learning project proposal? Please expand on the details of who, what, when, where and how.

• How will proposed project creatively engage the community?
• What ways will the proposed project engage diverse audiences?

• How will the proposed project integrate approaches from the various county programs represented on this team?

• How will it genuinely forge connections between 4-H youth development and other program areas?

• How are participating county-based educators currently involved in professional development efforts such as CGBL Educator Enrichment or CCE Program Development Certificate?

• Who will be responsible for reporting your successes? Who will capture documentation in photos and provide progress reports?

• As you look ahead, what would you image that “success” might look like? What are your hoped for outcomes as a result of this leadership experience and project support?