

Summer Activities

Summer is a great time in a school garden to bring in community support, cultivate relationships with parents and old or incoming students, and increase the amount of people involved in and benefiting from your garden project.

The key to success in a school garden summer program is to pull in help. One way to do this is to set up a summer care regime. The worksheets attached can help you do that. Make sure that you leave plenty of time to get volunteers, and make sure that you check in with the janitorial and ground staff about your summer plans. Some of the steps to plan are:

- Sign up families for week long watering and weeding stints to ensure regular care throughout the summer. Families who cannot commit to a week can sign up to be alternates and can be called upon to sub for other families if need be. Don't forget to include families of students from years past who may like to be involved in the garden again.
- Once families are signed up, they need to be oriented to the tasks, tools and procedures of your garden. You can organize an orientation event for volunteers, and use the attached worksheets as guides to create your own to help keep track of everyone's time and contributions in the garden.
- Then throughout the summer it's a good idea to have regular days and times where you will be at the garden, and anyone wishing to be involved can stop by on those days. If you plan to donate food to the local food pantry, plan this date around their distribution days and volunteers can harvest the food for donation and bring it to the local pantry.
- Look for other avenues to help with summer care. Some options are: summer school, rec camp, other local camps.
- As you get closer to the beginning of the next school year, invite students from the incoming class to help in the garden on a special orientation day. It's a great way for students to get to know their new garden and each other in an informal, pleasant setting.