

Class Title: Back Yard Farming **Maximum Students:** 10
Grade or Age Levels: 5 years- 12 years
Start Date: January 18, 2024 **End Date:** See attached schedule
Thursday from 2-4

Weeks Total: 8

#Hours (Required): You must attend at least 7 classes
Total Semester Hours Possible: 16 Hours

Locations/Address:

Circle "C" Stable
905 Pine Hills Lane
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

We will be holding class in our meeting room/classroom at the stable. Please drive very slowly as we do have horses surrounding us. You will drive down the driveway, drive around the first barn on your right, come to the big barn, and follow the signs for the meeting room (It will be around the left of the big barn). You may park by the classroom door. Please note, we will be going outside every class meeting, so wear appropriate clothing for the weather.

Main Instructor:

Shelly Adkins

Contact Information:

Shelly Adkins
slsadkins11@gmail.com
(703) 579-7382

Additional Registration at Site Required?

** We will have a liability release form and picture release form for social media.*

Course Description:

Through provided hands on learning, inquiry, observation and experimentation, students will gain an understanding of the basics of organic backyard gardening and an appreciation for being a good steward of the Earth. They will learn about composting, proper soil composition for growing a variety of herbs, vegetables and flowers, the life cycle of a plant, what insects are helpful in the care of plants, and become knowledgeable in how to plant and tend a garden with sustainable practices.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT- what will be used to evaluate student progress and/or end of semester pass/fail status?

All classes abide by the following:

- 1) Student agrees to attend at least 80% of class sessions/lessons offered. Attendance is kept online and tracked by Partnership staff. Failure to meet 80% or be on track to meet 80% may result in program discontinuation.
- 2) The Partnership Student Assessment or Performance Form is filled out by the teacher and turned in to Partnership staff. The link to this form is found on the web page for this class. Failing marks for lack of participation, behavior issues, practice time, etc. may result in program discontinuation.
- 3) This is a pass/fail course. Each class meeting, each student will complete an entry in their Garden Scrapbook. Upon final completion of their Garden Scrapbook, they will be given a pass/fail grade....basically on effort and class participation.

CLASS SPECIFIC ASSESSMENT:

Each class meeting, each student will complete an entry in their Garden Scrapbook. During the final class, they share their completed Garden Scrapbook.

CLASS POLICIES:

Attendance: Please let me know if your student will not be attending due to illness or vacation. You can just call me and leave a message or text me.

Behavior: If your student is disrespectful in class, distracting or puts other students (or horses) in danger, I will ask they be picked up early.

Weather: I follow the local district for closures. If the district the class is held in closes, we will not have class. If you do not feel safe going out, then please stay home and just let me know via a text or voicemail. We will hold a make up class or arrange an at home activity for your child to complete. I can also hold classes virtually via Zoom Meetings.

Other:

*We will have hand sanitizer available to use throughout our class time, and we ask that all students either wash their hands or use hand sanitizer as soon as they walk into the classroom.

*You may bring your own reusable water bottle to class and a small snack. If the weather permits, we will have our snack break outside of class or in the neighboring barn. Please be mindful that we want to promote recycling...how can you bring a snack that does not involve trash?

Back Yard Farming Syllabus

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Course Objective

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*Please note that I may change around the classes due to Mother Nature and interests of our students:)

Week 1: Meet and Greet

Students will design the covers of their Garden Scrapbook and be given list of recyclable materials we will use throughout our class that they could collect at home.

Week 2: Reduce Reuse, Recycle and Composting:

Students will construct their own landfill using milk cartons to learn about what waste products decompose and which ones do not. Students will hypothesize what will happen at the end of 5 weeks in their Landfill. During Week 6, class, we will remove the contents of their mini-landfill and investigate the waste items.

Hypothesis on what decomposes in Scrapbook Entry

Week 3: Lasagna Garden

We will Prep our garden beds with different soils and composts. In one raise bed, we will construct a "Lasagna garden"...layering mulch, newspapers, kitchen scraps, compost and other organic matter. And learn the magic of horse manure!!

Lasagna Compost for Scrapbook Entry

Week 4: Starting Seeds, Growing Guides and Zones

lettuce, herbs, garlic, onions, broccoli, tomato,...we will plant in recyclable containers
What can you make to eat with what we are planting?
Gardening Calendar Wheel (construct a wheel on telling when to plant and harvest)

Map of Gardening Zones for Scrapbook Entry

Week 5

Self Expression in the Garden

Students will paint rocks and make markers for plants and we will discuss garden designs

In addition we will make some upcycled flower planters and wild seed balls.

Garden Design and seed ball recipe
page for Scrapbook Entry

Week 6:

Composting Revisited with Worms!!: We will dig back into a mini landfills and see what decomposed and what did not.

Then we will build our own worm composting farm.

Composting Page for Scrapbook Entry

Week 7

We will learn what insects (and worms) help in the garden. We will construct insect homes.

Make observations of our worm composter farm.

We will create a diagram of Insect Home for Scrapbook Entry

Week: 8

We will make our final observations of our gardening projects and do a final check on our lasagna garden...perhaps even do some planting in the raised beds! And release our composting worms.

We will have our final sharing of our garden scrapbook.

Class Meeting Dates:

January 18th

April 11th

April 18th

April 25th

May 2nd

May 9th

May 16th

May 23rd