

Growing Hope's 2008 Roots & Shoots Program

QUICK INFO

WHAT IS ROOTS & SHOOTS?

The Roots & Shoots Program is a five-year old, free program for youth in grades 8-12 that combines gardening, leadership & entrepreneurial skill development, and nutrition & health education. It is run by Ypsilanti-based nonprofit Growing Hope, whose mission is to help people improve their lives and communities through gardening. The Roots & Shoots 2008 program is open to a maximum of twelve youth participants and is open until we are full. All youth will be interviewed after we receive their application—this is mostly so we can get to know the youth and understand their willingness to commit to the program. An adult program coordinator, Meg Maurer, and a youth intern, Roy Finny, will lead this year's program with assistance from other Growing Hope staff and volunteers. If you would like more information about Growing Hope, please call us at (734) 786-8401, see our website www.growinghope.net, or email us at info@growinghope.net.

WHAT WILL WE DO THIS YEAR?

Participants will plant, grow, harvest, and market fresh vegetables, herbs, and flowers to sell at the Downtown Ypsilanti Farmers' Market (Tuesdays, 2-6 pm, May-Oct). This year they will also be involved in developing, producing, and marketing an herbal hand balm. Youth will work to create and develop marketable, garden-related products and learn entrepreneurial business planning and implementation skills. Youth will also develop food safety and cooking skills through healthy snack preparation. The program will include field trips to sites around the community that will allow youth to engage with community members and develop leadership skills through service and outreach projects. Guardians will be informed in advance of field trip locations. Field trips include outings to local farms, food production facilities, and farmers' markets.

HOW IS THE PROGRAM STRUCTURED?

The program will meet two days a week, every Tuesday and Thursday. During the school year, the program will meet from 3:30-6 pm. After school is out in June, the hours may expand so youth can participate more fully in the 2-6 pm Farmers Market. The first day of the summer program is Thursday, March 20th and the last day is Tuesday, October 7. Snacks will be provided. The program will convene at the Growing Hope office in downtown Ypsilanti (Washington & Pearl), at the Perry Learning Garden (Harriet & Hawkins Streets), the Downtown Ypsi Farmers' Market (Hamilton & Michigan Ave). Participants will need to secure their own transportation and arrive on time meetings. As needed, Growing Hope will help connect youth/parent for carpools. We also encourage safe and responsible biking and walking routes. We may be able to provide bus tokens for youth who can utilize the local AATA bus system.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Youth living in the Ypsilanti area in grades 8-12 are invited to apply to participate in this program. Participants must commit to the entire program, though special exception is made for students whose schedules change when the fall school year begins in September. If you are interested in participating, but are unable to make this time commitment, please explain in more detail on the registration form. We may be able to include connect you to other Growing Hope volunteer & education opportunities.

OUR EXPECTATIONS

In order to ensure that everyone is physically and emotionally safe, we expect that you treat yourselves, others, and the environment and things around you with respect. We also expect that you participate fully in the program, which includes coming to every session and participating in all of the activities. We need your contributions, energy, talents, and leadership to have an incredible summer together! If you will miss a day of Roots & Shoots, you **MUST** tell us in advance, or call us at (734)786-8401 to let us know. Two unexcused absences or failure to act appropriately will lead to exclusion from the program.