



Gardens For Everyone

GROW YOUR VEGGIES AT HOME!

MENTORSHIP GUIDELINES

We appreciate that you have decided to share your knowledge, experience, and time with the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle Learning Gardens community! We believe that pioneering innovative solutions designed to end hunger only happens when we collaborate with our community to deliver high quality education about gardening, eating well, and leaving a small footprint on this planet. Mentors like you are critical to fulfilling this mission and we can't thank you enough!

The newly launched **Gardens For Everyone** program allows us to build back-yard garden boxes in our community and provide gardening education and support to participating families and organizations. While COVID-19 continues to take a toll on our most vulnerable populations, we believe it is more important than ever that everyone can access the nutritious food they need – especially fresh produce.

Program Overview

1. **Gardens For Everyone** builds a 4' x 8' x 20" raised-bed for an individual or family at their home
2. The home gardener will be paired with a mentor for advice and support
3. Mentors will meet with home gardeners once a month to plan, assist in the garden, review educational resources, answer questions, or anything the gardener may need
4. We will check in with mentors to hear how things are going and how we can be of assistance

Expectations for us and for you

- **What you can expect from the Garden Staff:**
 - Access to educational resources, if requested
 - We will reach out to you for a brief check-in every month to hear how things are going and if assistance is needed. This helps us improve the **Gardens For Everyone** program.
- **What the Garden Staff expects from you:**
 - Initial site-visit meet and greet with the gardener, we will introduce you over email, but it is your responsibility to set the first and regular meeting times together in-person
 - Updates on your gardener's progress during our brief check-ins
 - Providing hands-on help and advice with gardening questions
 - Assisting them with seasonal planning, insect-disease control advice

- o Garden workdays with your gardener as needed. Frequency of meetings can be determined by you and your mentee

Sample Time Requirements

To be completed within 2 weeks of being assigned a mentee

- Meet with your gardener at home
- Fill out a questionnaire to get to know your gardener's skill level and goals

To be completed monthly

- Respond to Inter-Faith Food Shuttle's check-in email
- Meet monthly (or more) with your gardener

Initial meeting topics

- Create a crop plan/ garden layout using provided template
- Plant transplants and/or seeds
- Basic watering techniques

Other basic topics

- Composting and fertilizing
- Weeding
- Pests and diseases
- Harvesting and storage
- Cooking
- Crop rotation

If you are interested in becoming a *Gardens For Everyone* mentor, please email gardensforeveryone@foodshuttle.org