



Growing Minds Preschool Budding Botanists Program

With over 20 years of experience in the fields of education and horticulture, we have programs to fit the needs of all learners and educational groups. All lessons are taught by SC certified teacher, Katie Donohoe. Our preschool labs are forty-five minutes long and involves a lesson and hands on activity. Lessons can be purchased “a la carte” or as a five-week bundle.. For organizations with an existing garden, we can plan our five-week bundle in conjunction with your existing garden to get it planted with appropriate seasonal vegetables as part of the hands-on lab activities. For schools without a garden, we package everything that students plant in a way in which they can easily take their newly planted items with them to grow at home.

Lab One - Super Seeds

It is important for students to understand that seeds are not dead but are actually very alive. They will discover that seeds are “sleeping” in a dormant state just waiting for the right conditions to wake them up! Students will learn the proper conditions for “waking seeds up”. Once students learn these steps, they can begin their journey of growth along with their plants. After they are armed with the knowledge to wake these sleepy seeds they will apply what they have learned by planting their own seeds.

Lab Two - Lovely Leaves

Lab two begins with an investigation into the most commonly eaten plant part, the leaves. We will explore the fascinating way that plants make their own food. Students learn that, just like us, leaves come in all shapes and sizes. Leaves have even adapted to have developed adaptations to protect themselves as well as survive extreme conditions. Insectivorous leaves are a favorite adaptation that we will look at as we investigate the world of carnivorous plants. This week each student will start a plant in which they can eat the leaves.

Lab Three - Roots and Shoots

In this lab, we will explore the fascinating way that plants take up water and nutrients with their roots and move it all the way up the plant through the stems. Students will learn that plants have “built in straws” to move their food and water up and down. This week each student will grow a plant in which they can eat the roots or shoots.

Lab Four - Flower Power and Pollinators

This lab will investigate the purpose of a flower. This lab unlocks the mystery of flowers and reveals the secret life of pollinators that make almost every bite of food we eat possible. Students will get to see what a flower looks like through the eyes of an insect as well as discover that some plants aren’t so pretty. In fact, a few of them smell terrible just to attract their specific pollinators! During this lab, students will plant seeds to start their own pollinator garden.

Lab Five - Wonderful Worms During this lab, we will dig into the process of making homemade nutrient rich plant food through process of composting. We will also explore using worms to speed up the process of composting. Participants will get to see the amazing process that breaks down the food we eat into yummy compost for plants. Not only will students get to the process of composting but they will get some of this plant “super food” to feed to the plants that they have been growing from previous labs.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the cost?

The cost is \$99 per class per school visit. (*class size up to 18 students*). Pricing includes instruction and all supplies for hands-on activities. The five lesson school bundle is \$399 and the five lessons can be spaced out in a manner that best fits with your programming. Five weekly visits is the most popular option but we are flexible.

Where do I register?

Please contact us directly at info@growingmindsfarm.org to set up one time or recurring payments.

Cancellation policy?

If a class is cancelled due to inclement weather or circumstances beyond our control, we will provide a make-up class that best fits your schedule.

About Us

Katie Donohoe began the urban agriculture program at the largest high school in South Carolina in 2009. When she began with a trailer, patch of dirt and a few donated seeds, she had no idea just what this pilot program had in store. The program was wildly popular and it grew by leaps and bounds over the years to come. She developed the program from an introductory class in a tiny mobile classroom to four different classes, two full time horticulture teachers, two greenhouses, a rooftop garden, and classroom hydroponics. Many students pursued horticultural degrees or went directly into the workforce upon graduation. Many others have continued to grow their own food regardless of their occupation. After building the award winning horticulture program at Wando High School, Katie decided that her next mission was to educate and empower individuals of all ages and abilities to grow food everywhere!

In 2015, she founded a non-profit called Growing Minds Project that would help to bring the power of plants to students of all ages and abilities. Growing Minds began with in school and after school programs in North Charleston, McClellanville and Mount Pleasant. Then in 2017, Growing Minds truly began to grow. In early 2018, Growing Minds helped to preserve the rich agricultural history of a nearly 5 acre farm in the historic Phillips Community. It was transformed into an educational demonstration farm showcasing sustainable agriculture techniques. Our mission continues to be educating and empowering individuals of all ages to grow healthy food! We believe that it is critical to preserve some of the last remaining rural land in our community for the purpose of cultivation. Every day farm land is decreasing while population continues to increase. There is a time when we must put aside land for cultivation, teaching, healing and preservation. That time is now.

Growing Minds Non-Profit Educational Farm
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www.growingmindsfarm.org