

AGRICULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES

For Middle Schoolers & Beyond

4-H

Every county has 4-H! Youth can also participate in 4-H in surrounding counties. 4-H offers hands-on learning opportunities for youth k-13 grade. In 4-H, youth design and participate in their own programs and activities. This unique learn-by-doing model teaches kids essential, transferrable skills that they'll use throughout their lives, such as problem solving, decision making, coping, communicating and responding to the needs of others. Minnesota 4-H is offering a new program called SOAR the Science of Agriculture Response, this is a hands-on learning experience to inspire the next generation of agriculture leaders in Minnesota. Youth teams will partner with local expert mentors to develop science-based responses to agriculture-related issues they have identified in their communities.

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/>



AGRICULTURE EDUCATION IN MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

Study agriculture, food & natural resources in school! Agricultural Education Programs are preparing the next generation of problem solvers, leaders, and agriculturalists through relevant, engaging curriculum and real life experiences. Using classroom, laboratory and experiential learning, students acquire a wide variety of skills, including science, math, communications, leadership, management and technology. Many school agriculture programs use FFA to enhance the leadership and experiential learning portions of their program. **There are multiple programs in the metro**, including the School of Environmental Sciences in Apple Valley, as well as an open enrollment charter school for grades 5-12, www.afsahighschool.com, that accepts students from any sending town. To learn more about ag education opportunities, visit www.mnffa.org



JUNIOR MASTER GARDNER

Programs that connect youth to gardening are on the increase nationally. University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardeners has expanded efforts in youth gardening education, often done in partnerships with other organizations and schools. These programs have goals associated with promoting healthy eating, reducing child obesity, connecting youth to nature, and teaching life and science skills.

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/master-gardener/junior-master-gardener>

MINNESOTA LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM

Youth aged 12-18 can experience urban gardens while gaining entrepreneurial, communication, and leadership skills. The CityFresh Entrepreneurs and Community Youth Leaders programs use the National Content Standards for Entrepreneurship Education to guide program planning and development in all Urban Garden Youth programs. Using small, garden-based business models CityFresh entrepreneurs, facilitated by an adult leader, take part in all aspects of establishing and running a small, garden-based business. Urban Garden youth leaders expand their communication and leadership skills through horticulture and community building.

<http://www.arboretum.umn.edu/urbangardenyouthemployment.aspx>

SPARK-Y

To ensure that our future is filled with leaders who draw on their knowledge and experience to create solutions in the face of diverse challenges. Host annual summer internship program, and serve approximately 200 youth each year. To help youth discover knowledge and empowerment we use programs focused on urban agriculture systems including: aquaponics, vermicomposting, algae cultivation, and mushroom cultivation. Spark-Y is an organization run for youth, by youth. Our operations team consists of young professionals, recent graduates, college students, and high school students. Together we perfect our agriculture systems at our Sustainable Education Lab headquarters. Then we mobilize to instruct and guide high schools and youth across the Twin Cities — youth teaching youth to build tomorrow's leaders. <http://spark-y.org/>

TWIN CITIES URBAN AG CONNECTION

The Twin Cities Urban Ag Connection (TCUAC) is a website built by and for those interested in urban agriculture. This networking tool was assembled to provide information about urban agriculture activities in the Twin Cities and provide networking opportunities between organizations and individuals working in urban agriculture. <http://www.tcurbanag.com/>

Our passion is agriculture; let us share it with you!! For more information regarding agriculture opportunities, please feel free to contact.

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