2016 4-H Small Garden Project – Group

Who: groups of 2 or more youth ages 5-19 (schools, 4-H clubs, scout troops, etc.)

What: prepare, plant, maintain, and harvest a small garden and complete contest record book

When: Friday, April 1 - Friday, July 29

Why: to learn what it takes to grow the food we eat

How: call your local 4-H Agent for more information or to register for the contest

Registration and Rules:

- For a registration fee of $10, each group will receive a record book and one seed packet or seedling.
- Groups will be required to prepare, plant, maintain, and harvest a garden plot of no less than 200 square feet (20x20, 10x20, 8x25, etc.). If the group does not have space for a 200 square feet garden every effort will be made by the 4-H Agent to provide space.
- Groups must plant the seed they are given in addition to at least 2 other edible crops of their choice.
- Seeds/seedlings must be in the ground no later than Friday, May 20.

Record Book:

- One group record book is to be completed by the youth in the group throughout the course of the project and turned in to the Extension Office no later than Friday, July 29. Record books are age appropriate: Cloverbuds (ages 5-8/grades K-3 as of January 1, 2016) and Juniors and Seniors (ages 9-19/grade 4-12 as of January 1, 2016). If the group consist of youth of various ages/grades, the record book for the oldest participant’s age/grade will be required.

Judging:

- Groups will be divided into three categories prior to judging: Cloverbuds (ages 5-8/grades K-3), Juniors (ages 9-13/grades 4-6), and Seniors (ages 14-19/grades 9-12) with ages/grades determined as of January 1, 2016. Cloverbud groups will be given participation ribbons upon completion of the project. Junior and Senior group record books will be judged on the county level. One winner in each category will be sent to the regional level for record book competition. One winner in each age category on the regional level will be sent to the state level for competition. The top Junior and top Senior record book will receive awards. Awards are sponsored by the SC Master Gardener Program.
Youth should expect at least one site visit from judges. Participants are encouraged to be on site for this visit. Dates of these site visits will be coordinated by your local Agent.

The actual garden plot and the record book will both be taken into consideration upon judging on the county level, which will be done by qualified Extension Agents and/or gardeners. Only material included in/with the record books, along with attached score sheets from the local level, will be judged on the regional and state levels.

**Project Garden Timeline:**
- Friday, April 1: Deadline to register for the project
- Friday, May 20: Deadline to plant seeds/seedlings
- Friday, July 15: Deadline for gardens to be judged
- Friday, July 29: Record books due
- County winners will be announced no later than mid-August
- Regional and State winners will be announced no later than the end of September

**Resources:**
- Clemson Home and Garden Information Center: [http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/](http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/)
- County Clemson Extension Office: [http://www.clemson.edu/extension/county/](http://www.clemson.edu/extension/county/)

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