

The purpose of the GWA curriculum is to educate youth to become contributing members of society by modeling and teaching an ethic of personal, moral and social responsibility. We do this through apprentice education in the emerging urban horticulture, food production, organic landscaping and related fields.

Entry requirements include

- A high school diploma or GED or written commitment to work with our mentors to complete an accredited high school education in a specified time frame with satisfactory quarterly progress reports.
- Willingness to practice a good work ethic by
 - showing up on time,
 - focusing on and being present to the task at hand,
 - staying for the course of the day's work;
 - following instructions,
 - being responsible for tools and their maintenance, and
 - clean up at the end of each day's work.
- Keeping a journal or creating a portfolio of their ongoing daily progress.
- In accord with their abilities, parental (or significant other's) involvement as volunteers to help GWA carry out its mission.

PROGRESSION:

1. After the initial "Come and See" trial work period, committed students with satisfactory progress reports will receive a stipend* of \$10.00 per (four hours) day/work period.
2. For students making progress in an accredited high school program, the training will be tailored in cooperation with their specific curriculum to afford participants the opportunity of both hands-on learning and independent studies high school credits.
3. For students who have dropped out, our commitment is to help you complete high school. Thus at the end of the work training (four hours), and after a ½ hour lunch, they will stay for another 1 ½ hours to work on course completions with the assistance of our mentors and resources.
4. The student will graduate to Junior Gardener status (with a \$25 daily stipend) when the following conditions are met:
 - Regular attendance: s/he is consistent and reliable in showing up and signing in;
 - Demonstrates healthy work skills (being on time, clean & properly groomed, sober, etc);
 - Shows s/he truly cares for the earth by their attitude and respect for the Earth.
For example: not littering, not wasting resources, using a staging area to be accountable for tools, cleaning them and the grounds at the end of a work day, etc.
 - Mastery of at least one aspect of organic gardening (eg, organic rose care).
 - Successful completion of high school (receiving GED or diploma).

* A **stipend** is a form of salary, such as for an [internship](#) or [apprenticeship](#). It is often distinct from a [wage](#)

or a [salary](#) because it does not necessarily represent payment for work performed, instead it represents a payment that enables somebody to be exempt partly or wholly from waged or salaried employment in order to undertake a role that is normally unpaid (e.g. a [magistrate](#) in [England](#)), or [voluntary](#), or which cannot be measured in terms of a task . . . Universities usually refer to money paid to graduate students as a stipend, rather than as wages, to reflect complimentary benefits. [Wikipedia](#)