

JMG® Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Where can I find out information about the JMG program?

A. Information about the program can be received from:
the web site: <http://jmgkids.us>

or by contacting the Indiana JMG program coordinator:

Dr. Kathryn Orvis
Dept. 4-H Youth and Horticulture & Landscape Architecture
227 Ag. Admin. Bldg.
615 W. State St.
Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2053
(765) 494-8439
orvis@purdue.edu
<http://www.four-h.purdue.edu/staff.home/kathryn/default.html>

or by contacting the National JMG Program Office :

JMG National Program Office
225 Horticulture/Forestry Science Bldg.
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843-2134
(979) 845-8565

or by contacting JMG KIDS at 1-800-JMG-KIDS.

Q. How do I start a JMG group?

A. To get started you need to have 5 or more youth interested in the program and have the JMG Teacher/Leader Guide and Youth Handbook. Next register your JMG group. For Level one you can complete the registration packet that is in the Teacher/Leader Guide (pg. 217) or get copies of Indiana registration at:

<http://www.four-h.purdue.edu/staff.home/kathryn/default.html>

Indiana is a JMG state partner and this information can be received from your state JMG coordinator that is listed on the JMG web page and above.

Q. What are the benefits of registering a JMG group?

A. Registering your group is FREE. Youth who are registered in the JMG program are eligible for certification in a state and national program. Each registered group will have a web page on the JMG web site, this site will be maintained by the JMG web master. Registered groups will be eligible for JMG contests, awards and camps. The exciting component of the JMG program is that registered youth can receive recognition by becoming a certified Junior Master Gardener or by completing a Golden Ray certification, or chapter completion certificate.

The terms, Junior Master Gardener, JMG and Golden Ray Series, and associated logos, are service marks of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

Registering gives us a way of knowing where our program is working and how we can get program updates and information to you. Registering does not obligate the group to have participants complete the entire JMG program and have youth be recognized as certified Junior Master Gardeners.

Q. How do I register a JMG group?

A. Complete the registration packet that is in the Teacher Guide (pg. 217) or on the four-h web page www.four-h.purdue.edu and send to the state coordinator's office. These are forwarded to the national office so that the group can be added to the national database and added to the web page.

Q. How is the Level 1 JMG Curriculum organized?

A. The Level 1 JMG Curriculum is made up of a youth handbook and a teacher/leader guide. The curriculum is made up of 8 chapters including plant growth and development, soils and water, ecology and environmental horticulture, insects and diseases, landscape horticulture, fruits and nuts, vegetables and herbs, and life skills/career exploration.

The JMG Teacher/Leader Guide contains the group activities from the eight chapters that make-up the JMG Handbook. These group activities are integrated into math, science, language arts, and social studies. They also include corresponding work sheets, fun pages, songs, and additional resource materials for the instructor. For teachers, there are special sections that include reading passages appropriate for ISTEP preparation. Indiana Academic Standards for Reading, Math, Social Science, and Science have been correlated for all activities in the curriculum guide and are available at:

<http://www.four-h.purdue.edu/staff.home/kathryn/default.html>

The JMG youth handbook contains hands on activities for youths in the JMG program and is intended to compliment the teacher leader guide. At the end of each chapter are Leadership/Community Service projects. These are projects and activities to help your JMG group share with their family, friends, and community all the many things they have learned. To receive JMG certification, each student is required to complete one individual activity per chapter. We encourage each JMG member to have a JMG handbook, however this is not required to participate in the program.

Q. How do youth become a certified Junior Master Gardener?

A. First the youth must belong to a registered JMG group. For Level one, to be certified youth must complete 1 individual activity from the JMG youth handbook and 1 group activity from the JMG Teacher/Leader Guide per teaching concept in each of the eight chapters. In addition they must complete one community service/leadership project per chapter. Level one of the JMG curriculum contains eight chapters with a total of 44 teaching concepts. To be certified youth must complete a total of 44 individual activities, 44 group activities and 8 community/leadership projects.

Q. Do I have to be a Master Gardener or have a “green thumb” to lead a JMG group?

A. No! We only ask that the JMG Teacher/Leader be interested in working with youth.

Q. Where do I go to find out more information about the program?

A. Contact your local County Extension office, the state JMG coordinator, Dr. Orvis, (Purdue University, Dept. of 4-H Youth), the National JMG office, or the JMG website at <http://jmgkids.us>

Q. When will Level 2 and Level 3 be available?

A. JMG Level 2 for grades 6-8 is here! Format and organization is similar to Level 1 except youth & leader’s guides are contained in one book. There has been some preliminary work completed on Level 3 curriculum but it will likely be several years before it is available to the public.

Q. What about curriculum for pre k-grade 2?

A. This material is currently under development, however many Level 1 activities can be adopted for younger children.

Q. What is a Golden Ray?

A. A Golden Ray is recognition offered to youth that complete a small part of the JMG program. Groups can choose to focus on one chapter or topic.

Option one: One of the eight chapters of the JMG handbook can be completed as a Golden Ray Series. Choose a chapter in the book and do 2 (instead of one) group activities per concept and 2 (instead of one) individual activities, and one service learning project. After completing these activities, you would send us the completion form that lists the names of your Junior Master Gardeners that completed that Golden Ray. The youth would achieve Golden Ray Certification in that chapter (i.e. Plant Growth and Development or Insects and Diseases, etc.). Youth can achieve Golden Ray certification in all eight chapters of the JMG curriculum.

Option two: A thematic unit can be completed as a Golden Ray Series. These units combine a variety of activities from all subject units to focus on one topic, such as “Health and Nutrition” (available now) and “Creating a Backyard Habitat” (coming in the future).

Q. Is there a time requirement for JMG Certification?

A. No, the JMG program is flexible. The program was designed so that registered groups could achieve certification with-in one school year, but we realize this isn't always feasible. We hope that all groups, set the goal of becoming certified Junior Master Gardeners, but certification is not a requirement for registered JMG groups.

Q. Do I have to attend a JMG training in order to lead a JMG group?

A. In Indiana, this may vary by county. Training is beneficial for a future JMG Teacher/Leader, but it is not required.

Q. Are all registered JMG youth counted as 4-Hers?

A. Yes all registered JMG groups are counted as part of the 4-H program, however not all are included as 4-H clubs, some may be included under school enrichment or special interest programs. Each state will report their individual state numbers. In Indiana, registered groups are reported by counties. However, the national program office will keep a national database of registered JMG groups and program numbers that will be available to those that would like to know the national/international interest in the JMG program. These are continually updated on the JMG web page.

Q. Although I have read that the program is targeted for 3rd - 5th grade, I would like to offer the program to any students in my school, Pre-K - 5th, that is interested. Is this acceptable for registration?

A. Yes! Your students can be registered JMG members. We welcome youth of all ages Pre-K - 12th grade. Currently, the curriculum materials that are available are at a reading level for grades 3-5. Younger and older youth are registered in the program. The curriculum specifically addresses Indiana Academic Standards for Math, Science, Language arts and Social Studies for grades 3-5. However, many of the activities are effective for different ages and as the teacher you can pick and choose from the menu format what activities might be appropriate for your children. JMG Level 1 academic standards lists can be found on the web at <http://www.four-h.purdue.edu/staff.home/kathryn/default.html>

Q. When to start?

A. That is also another question that the teacher/leader can choose. A lot of the activities can be done inside the classroom or in a club setting, so it is flexible as to when to start. We had groups that started the program in the fall, and some that started in February (just before the gardening season). You could start them in the fall and have a short (depending on your climate) fall garden, then do most of the inside activities and then go back outside in the spring. It all depends on when you want to start.

Many groups have had a successful JMG experience without having a physical garden plot. Many urban areas have used container gardening as a way to have children have a garden area without having to build or cultivate a bed area. It is NOT a requirement that a JMG group have a garden plot.

Q. Do we have to start at chapter one and complete the program one chapter at a time?

A. For Level 1, it is suggested that you begin with chapters 1, or 2. The chapters Plant Growth & Development and Soils and Water are the basis of lots of other activities within the JMG program. There is not a requirement to complete the chapters in any order. However, it may provide a greater understanding of gardening to begin with these chapters before starting chapters such as Landscape Design or Vegetables and Herbs. The final decision is left up to the teacher of the JMG group based on the climate and needs of their group.

For Level 2, it is suggested that you start at the beginning of the manual.

Q. How do I order JMG curriculum, apparel and other items?

1. Level 1 curriculum can be obtained through your county extension office or through Purdue's Agricultural Communication Media Distribution Center at 1-888-EXT-INFO or on the web at <http://www.agcom.purdue.edu/AqCom/Pubs/menu.htm> at discounted prices.
2. To place an order for Level 2 curriculum, apparel and other items, you can also:
 - Call the toll free number 1-888-JMGKIDS. This number is available 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, and we can process all major credit cards (Visa, MC, AmEx, Diners, and Discover).
 - By fax at 1-979-695-8498
 - Order Online at www.jmgkids.us All major credit cards accepted.
 - By post to:
 - JMGsm Shop
 - 1515 Emerald Plaza
 - College Station, TX 77845

Q. What is the cost of the program?

A. Registering your group is FREE. The only cost of the program is the curriculum and activity supplies. The price of the curriculum varies by county. Price discounts for quantities can be obtained from the Purdue Extension, the national JMG program office or JMG Distribution.

Activities in the curriculum will require miscellaneous supplies. Most of the activity supplies require recycled materials or items that can be purchased at minimal cost.

- Q. What does the “sm” or “®” mean after the terms JMG and Junior Master Gardener?
- A. The term “sm” stands for service mark. The term ® stands for registered trademark. JMG, Junior Master Gardener, Golden Ray Series and associated logos are service marks of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. A registered JMG group or participating state partner may use the terms in marketing or promoting their local programs. However, if these items appear in print then an “sm” or “®” should appear after the terms JMG, Junior Master Gardener, Golden Ray Series, and associated logos and /or the following statement should be included:
- “The terms, Junior Master Gardener, JMG and Golden Ray Series, and associated logos, are service marks of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.”
- Registered groups and state partners do not have the authority to develop or print new JMG or Golden Ray series curriculum materials, modify the guidelines of the JMG program, or create or develop JMG or Golden Ray Series merchandise to be sold and/or distributed.
- These service marks are reserved to insure the quality of the JMG program and the association of the program with the Cooperative Extension network.
- Q. What can youth do after they receive their Level 1 Junior Master Gardener certification?
- A. Youth that achieve Level 1 Junior Master Gardener certification can continue to be involved in the JMG program in a variety of ways. Many youth continue to meet as a JMG group and serve as “junior leaders” working with teachers, Master Gardeners, or others to start JMG groups. Certified youth can help to recruit new JMG members, participate in additional volunteer opportunities, and be a local “spokesperson” for the JMG program in the county or community.
- B. Youth can continue learning and growing in the program by completing Golden Ray series certification for any of the 8 chapters in the Level 1 curriculum OR by completing a stand alone Golden Ray Curriculum – Health and Nutrition from the Garden – available now.
- C. Youth can begin working on the Level 2 JMG certification.