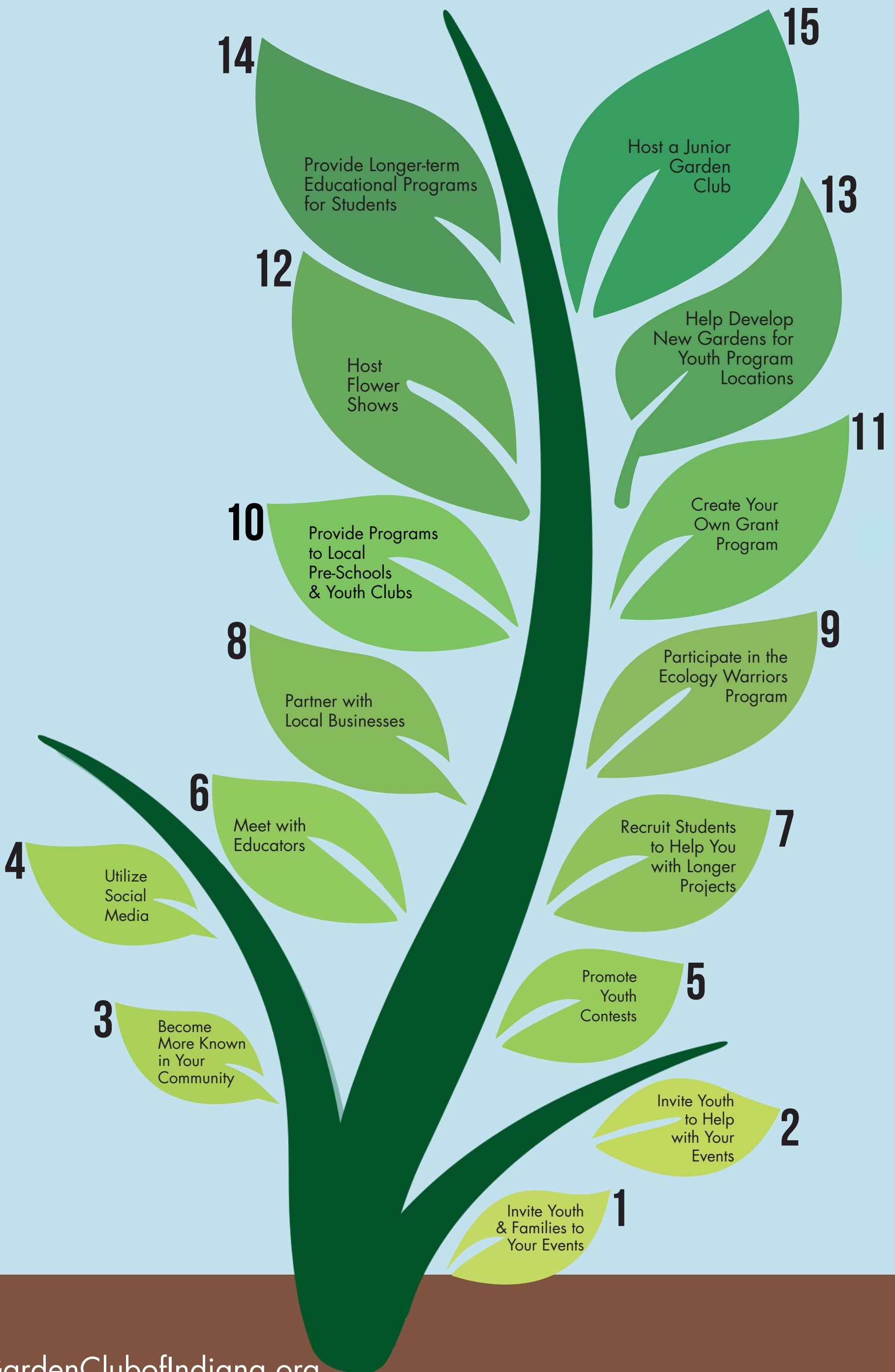




YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IDEAS

For The Garden Club of Indiana





YOUTH ENGAGEMENT RESOURCES

1

Invite Youth and Families to Your Events

Consider rebranding your annual "garden walk" to a "plant adventure" if you want to attract youth and family participation.

- gardentoursnewengland.com/organize-gardentour.php

2

Invite Youth to Help You with Your Events

During your annual plant sale (or other event) recruit youth to help you with sales, carrying to cars, etc.

- youth.gov/youth-topics/positive-youth-development/how-can-youth-be-engaged-programs-promote-positive-youth-development

3

Become More Known in Your Community

Develop a regular "community stroll" for your club calendar. Get out and walk around your communities together. Talk with the kids and adults you encounter about the plants you see (and don't see) in your area. Offer advice and support. Be known – if you aren't already – as the "plant whisperers" and "garden gurus" we all know you are.

4

Utilize Social Media

Use your club's social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) to show great images of the work you do, make the posts resonate for young people. Don't have social media? Recruit a teenager to help you get started.

- mashable.com/2012/06/12/social-media-beginners-guide/ gardenclub.org/youth/minor-photo-release.aspx

5

Promote Youth Contests

High School Essay Contest, High School Distinguished Service Project, Poetry, Smokey Bear / Woodsy Owl Poster Contest, Youth Recyclable Sculpture Contest

- gardenclub.org/youth/youth-contests.aspx

6

Talk with Educators About What You Can Do to Help, Then Make Plans Together

Contact local K-12 teachers – invite them to a discussion about how your club can help support/start a school garden. Contact FFA Advisors/4-H Advisors – invite them to a discussion about projects you can do together.

- doe.in.gov/idoie/digital-media/indiana-k-12-school-websites
- scholastic.com/BLOOM/
- ffa.org/chapter-locator/

7

Recruit Students to Help You with Longer Projects

Work with alternative education class teachers for students to help with plantings, etc.

- expandinglearning.org/expanding-minds/article/school-community-learning-partnerships-essential-expanded-learning-success

8

Partner with Local Businesses to Inspire Youth and Families about Gardening

Sponsor a public event at a garden center during spring planting season.

- quickbooks.intuit.com/ca/resources/nonprofit-organizations/partnering-with-local-businesses/

9

Participate in the Ecology Warriors Program

A program of the National Garden Clubs.

- gardenclub.org/youth/ecology-warriors-workbook.aspx

10

Provide Programs to Local Pre-schools and Youth Clubs

Work with pre-schools in your area to come in and do a program with them about plants/gardening, etc. Work with scout troops in your area to come in and do programs for them about plants/gardening, etc.

- kidsgardening.org/
- scholastic.com/BLOOM/

11

Create Your Own Grant Program

Schools and youth programs can apply to you for funds to create/improve gardens, or buy supplies, etc.

- <https://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/finances/invest-in-community-resources/microgrant/main>

12

Host Flower Shows

Host a Youth Standard Flower Show, Youth Small Standard Flower Show, Youth Specialty Show, or include youth in your adult Flower Show

- gardenclub.org/schools/flower-show-handbook.aspx

13

Help Develop New Gardens at Youth Program Locations

Help a pre-school set up an herb garden. Help a school plant and maintain a pizza garden. Work with YMCA day camps to provide garden activities and instruction at camp

- kidsgardening.org/create-sustain-a-program-starting-a-school-garden-program-overview/

14

Provide Longer-term Educational Programs for Students

Work with local schools to provide a 6-week summer school gardening class for students

- kidsgardening.org/
- SeedYourFuture.org
- scholastic.com/BLOOM/

15

Host a Junior Garden Club

Create and host a robust junior garden club

- gardenclub.org/youth/youth-gardening.aspx