



# GARDEN LEADERSHIP

## IDENTIFYING A GARDEN CHAMPION & FORMING A GARDEN TEAM

### Identifying a Garden Champion

Having a garden champion is essential to the sustainability of a school garden. This individual provides leadership for the garden team and is a point of contact for all things school garden related.

What makes a good garden champion?

- A passion for a healthy earth which nurtures the minds and bodies of our future generations.

Required skills:

- Basic understanding of garden maintenance
- Comprehension of school garden education  
Please visit "The Classroom" tab on the SPS Farm 2School website for resources.
- Creative problem solving
- Marketing and promotion
- People management

### Recruiting a Garden Team

Begin by asking: In which areas of leadership do I need the most help?

This toolkit is designed to help you identify the skills in committee members that will ensure school garden sustainability. Seek support from individuals who are willing and able to fill the gaps and form a garden team of eager helpers to support your school garden. Sustainability of school gardens depends on a community of people who are willing to commit time and energy internally at your school site and externally from the community.

Begin to build internal buy-in by sending an email to your school's staff, teachers, and parents introducing the project and recruiting help and support. Create a presentation for staff and PTA meetings. Encourage your school's PTA to create a "garden liaison" position. It is important that you have internal support as the foundation for creating a sustainable school garden program. Name your team and make it fun. For example, Guardians of the Garden sounds like a group your school community would want to join!

Once you've achieved internal support from parents, teachers and administrative staff, you can begin to reach out to the greater community. Excellent places to find individuals who are eager to serve are neighborhood associations, church groups, and master gardeners.

Committee Responsibilities:

- Hold regular meetings.
- Create a mission and vision statement.
- Identify the roles of each committee member.
- Form long-term and short-term goals.
- Develop a maintenance plan.

Additional Support:

- Assist with garden maintenance.
- Manage a garden club.
- Organize promotion and fund raising events.
- Recruit volunteers.
- Create marketing materials such as flyers and social media posts.

A shared mission, vision and set of goals promotes buy-in from your team members and ensures garden sustainability.

Consistent communication among committee members is crucial to the success of your garden. Create a facebook group page or utilize a group messaging application on your mobile devices to stay in contact with one another throughout each week. Provide "best practices" for whichever communication portal you choose. Remember, a strong garden committee creates community buy-in and is crucial to long-term success.

