

Green Thumb

Purpose:

This program is to encourage girls to become interested in the growing cycle and importance of plants. Girls will enjoy learning about the process of preparation; planting and watching plants grow.

Requirements:

Complete all the starred activities plus...

Daisies: three activities

Brownies: four activities

Juniors: five activities



Discover

1. *Collect seeds. Look at the variety of seeds, spread them out on a piece of paper and compare the differences in size, color and shape. Seeds are small life packages, each containing a young plant in the form of an embryo and a supply of food for the plant. There are over 250,000 difference species of plants that produce seeds.

Connect

1. Make your own greenhouse and watch seeds germinate:
 - a. You will need plates, cotton, plastic bags, and a variety of seeds.
 - b. Put a layer of cotton on a plate and sprinkle seeds over the cotton.
 - c. Carefully water the cotton and slip the plastic bag over the plate to create a greenhouse.
 - d. Remove the plastic bag daily to see the progress of the seeds as they germinate.
 - e. Seed suggestions: lima bean, kidney bean, pea, corn, sunflower, grass, radish, orange, or tomato.
2. *Prepare a snack that contains fruits or vegetables.

Take Action

1. Plant a kitchen garden. Your leader may decide to start the project at a troop meeting and then ask you to continue the growing at home. Try one or two of the following vegetables:
 - a. Carrots, beets, radishes, or parsnips: cut about an inch off the top. Put the vegetable tops in shallow dishes with water in a sunny window, and watch for the leaves to grow.
 - b. White Potato: cut off a piece with an eye in it, and plant it in a pot with soil.
 - c. Sweet Potato: suspend with toothpicks in a jar. Fill the jar with water so about half of the sweet potato is in water. Keep it in a warm dark place until roots grow then put it in a moderately sunny window.
2. *Take a trip to a greenhouse or garden center. Ask someone that works there to explain how the plants are started and how they are cared for.
3. Make Potato Pigs:

- a. In a long fat potato, scoop out a trough in the back, leaving one end to be the face and head.
 - b. Put in cloves for eyes and four wooden sticks (toothpick type) for legs.
 - c. Cut triangular-shaped ears from stiff paper and make slits in the head section to insert them. Add a button for a nose and curly pipe cleaner tail.
 - d. Fill the trough with soil, water well, and then sprinkle grass seed. Keep the soil moist and watch the pig grow a hairy green back.
4. Start a sprout jar:
 - a. You will need a jar, cheesecloth, rubber band, and sprout seeds (alfalfa, mung beans, or radish seeds).
 - b. Soak the beans for an hour and drain.
 - c. Place them in the jar (no more than half full).
 - d. Put the cheesecloth over the top and secure with a rubber band.
 - e. Keep the jar in a warm dark place.
 - f. Rinse the beans with water twice daily, draining all excess water through the cheesecloth.
 - g. Two days before you meet, place the jar in sunlight, so the sprouts develop chlorophyll.
5. Make a grass haired people project:
 - a. Cover plastic container with construction paper and make a face using markers or crayons.
 - b. Put soil inside the container and water well.
 - c. Sprinkle with grass seed and take home, watch the hair grow. Option: Use a see through container and watch the roots grow also.
6. Plant a flower garden for someone else. As a service project plant a flower garden at a senior center, home or for someone in need.