



Mini Grant Program Application

Project title: [Gardening in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed](#) Amount Requested: [\\$110](#)

Teacher or Leader's Name: [Shirley Sypolt](#)

Email Address: S.Sypolt@email.com

Phone Number: [\(757\) 420-0000](#)

School or Organization Name & Complete Address: [Cooper Elementary, 200 Marcella Road, Hampton, VA 2366](#)

Subject/Grade /Age Range: [5th Grade Class](#)

Number of Children: [25-40 students](#)

Goals & Objectives: (Include Standards of Learning if they apply.)

To work with the Hampton Virginia Cooperative Extension Office in training the 5th grade 4-H students as Junior Master Gardeners. All gardening experiences and activities will stress water conservation and Bay friendly landscape techniques. We will be using the National 4-H Junior Master Gardener curriculum. Additional 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students will have the opportunity to participate during the April Intersession.

This project has connections to the VA SOL field of science. Specifically scientific investigation, reasoning, and logic (5.1), classifying living things, vascular and nonvascular plants (5.5), as well as interrelationships of Earth and space systems by studying physical and biological characteristics of the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean (5.6). Other important SOL that will be met are those that cover Earth patterns, cycles and human impact on the environment (5.7).

Project Timeline: (Include start date, end date and summary submission date.)

March— Begin studying National 4-H Junior Master Gardener curriculum with the Hampton Virginia Cooperative Extension Office. Early April— Students choose plants and design garden layout. Late April/Early May—Students plant and visit local greenhouse. June—Harvest small crop.

Project budget: (Provide a detailed breakdown and indicate if you are receiving or applying for additional funds and if so, from whom and how much.)

[\\$50](#) – soil, [\\$35](#)—garden tools, [\\$25](#)—seeds

Please complete the Signature Form on the following page and submit both forms via email to HRGreen@hrpdcva.gov or mail to Attention: askHRgreen.org Mini Grant Program, 723 Woodlake Drive, Chesapeake VA, 23320.



Mini Grant Project Summary Form

Project title: [The Green Thumbs' Worm Composting Project](#)

Teacher or Leader's Name: [Sabrina Beach](#)

Project Outcome: (Successes, results, how the project met SOL requirements, etc.)

The worm composting project was a success! The students, teachers, and even the community have learned about vermicomposting systems through our project. In the classroom, we discussed the worm life cycle, soil organisms, waste reduction, and organic farming. The students have even learned how to take measurements of the moisture and PH of the soil and record the data. They have also learned how to turn their kitchen scraps into usable compost for our garden. The worm composter is in our classroom for every student to enjoy. A specific group of six students with disabilities who take a work experience class, help to feed the worms and use the compost produced. In a joint effort with another class for students with disabilities, we have organized a feeding schedule that includes up to twelve students in the feeding process. They have really enjoyed feeding the worms and watching the food disappear.

What did the students enjoy the most about this project?

Our students enjoyed feeding the worms and watching them through the clear composter. When they feed the worms they also have to check the moisture, the acidity, and the activity of the worms. They use a book to record what they see. They also like learning about the worm life cycle. We have recently seen young worms in the composter. This was very exciting. Now that our students have vermicomposting experience, they really take pleasure in talking about it and teaching others.

How could a similar project be improved? (Lessons learned, etc.)

After a discussion with an Environmental Science teacher, I have learned that the project could be improved by incorporating students from the environmental club and Earth Sciences classes. We would like to build a larger, outdoor composting system with help from these students. We also plan on giving a worm composting demonstration to some of the science classes around the building.

Please check off that you have included the following with your submission:

- ✓ Copy of receipt(s)
- ✓ Digital photos of youth engaged in the project
- ✓ Completed summary form

Please email copy of receipts, digital photos and completed summary form to HRGreen@hrpdcva.gov or mail to Attention: askHRgreen.org Mini Grant Program, 723 Woodlake Drive Chesapeake VA, 23320.

Mini Grant Project Summary Form

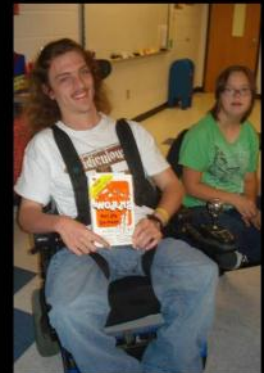
Project title: [The Green Thumbs' Worm Composting Project](#)

Pictures from the project:

The Green Thumbs' Worm Composting Project



Isaiah Williams



Chaz Floyd and Meristy Hudson

Isaiah and Chaz are holding the book "Worms Eat My Garbage" by Mary Appelhof. We use this book to learn about worm composting.



Isaiah Williams, Michelle White, and Micheal Raeburn

Isaiah, Michelle, and Micheal are adding shredded newspaper to the worm bin. The worms need the paper to help regulate the moisture in the bin.



Chaz Floyd is planting basil in the table top garden bed.