



September Theme: Seeds of Hope

Due Date: September 29, 2023

Challenge #1: Tree Field Guide

In order for us to best manage natural spaces, we must first know what plants are growing. Your challenge is to create your own Tree Field Guide by cataloging trees growing in your local community.

Challenge #2: Seed Starting 101

Learning to start your own seeds is a necessary practice for self sustainability and forest management. Your challenge is to start several different types of seeds, research and document the requirements to ensure success.

Challenge #3: Letters to Local Politicians

When we make our voices heard to advocate for positive change, we contribute to a better future for all. Your challenge is to identify a policy, ordinance, law or issue that you want to change and write a letter to a local politician with your ideas on how to resolve it.

**“Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap
but by the seed you plant.”**

~ Robert Louis Stevenson



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Challenge #1: Tree Field Guide

September

Description

In order for us to best manage natural spaces, we must first know what plants are growing. Your challenge is to create your own Tree Field Guide by cataloging trees growing in your local community. Once the tree has been identified, further research should be conducted to learn more about it. Having an idea of what trees are currently growing also provides information about what trees are missing from the landscape and why. Check out Challenge #2: Seed Starting 101 to learn how you can bring missing trees back!



Resources

A list of suggested apps and books can be found at <https://civicgardencenter.org/greenteens-challenge>, and further resources are available by emailing us at greenteens@civicgardencenter.org.

Steps to Success

- Step 1:** Read the description (above) and rubric (next page) for Challenge #1.
- Step 2:** Gather identification materials, such as the apps and identification books suggested above.
- Step 3:** Go on a walk! Once you find a tree, try identifying it.
- Step 4:** Take pictures (see “ID Page Images” in the rubric for ideas).
- Step 5:** After your initial identification, further research each tree found.
- Step 6:** Write a description for each tree based on your research. Descriptions should be original and include references. Plagiarism will not be tolerated.
- Step 7:** Combine all information and photos into a book.
- Step 8:** Make sure your name and email are written clearly and that you have submitted all pieces of your submission.
- Step 9:** Review the rubric to ensure you have met elements in the “Full Points” column.
- Step 10:** Submit and celebrate!

Don't forget the rubric on the next page!

Challenge #1: Tree Field Guide Rubric

	Full Points	Half Points	No Points
Number of Trees Documented	Five different trees are documented	Four different trees are documented	Fewer than four different trees are documented
ID Page	Each identification is accompanied by an original paragraph with the common and scientific name, description of the native range, and other facts about the tree. Citations are clearly written.	Identification pages are missing one component from Full Points column	Identification pages are missing more than one component from Full Points column
ID Page Images	Each ID page includes two close up original images: (photograph or hand drawn) of leaves, seeds, and/or bark	One ID page is missing one image	Images are missing from two or more pages or images are not original (e.g., taken from Internet)
Student Information	Student names and email addresses are clearly written		Student names and email addresses are missing
Due Date	Challenge was submitted by the due date of September 29		Challenge was not submitted by due date

Did you...

- Complete the Steps to Success checklist on the previous page?
- Make note of the submission due date?
- Email us for support (greenteens@civicgardencenter.org)?

Standards Alignment

- **Meets these ELA standards:** W.9-10.7, W.11-12.7, W.9-10.8, W.11-12.8, SL.9-10.5, SL.11-12.5, RH.9-10.1, RH.9-10.2, RH.11-12.2, WHST.9-10.9, WHST.11-12.9

Challenge #2: Seed Starting 101

September

Description

Learning to start your own seeds is a necessary practice for self sustainability and forest management. Every seed has slightly different requirements that need to be met to ensure germination and the success of the newly sprouted plant. Starting plants from seed can be a more affordable way to support school gardens and forest restoration projects. Your challenge is to research and start different types of seeds and report the process to ensure their success. Seeds started can be vegetables, flowers, trees, etc.



Resources

If you are in need of seeds, ideas of what to start or additional support, please reach out by emailing us at greenteens@civicgardencenter.org.

Steps to Success

- Step 1:** Read the description (above) and rubric (next page) for Challenge #2.
- Step 2:** Research the seeds you are starting and gather requirements. Use resources such as the Internet and the seed packets.
- Step 3:** For each seed, create your own document with the step-by-step procedure that summarizes planting information for each seed you chose.
- Step 4:** Create a watering schedule for your seeds.
- Step 5:** Plant seeds.
- Step 6:** Follow the watering schedule and document your germination with photos.
- Step 7:** Caption photos with a description of what type of seed is germinating and how well it is growing.
- Step 8:** Make sure your name and email are written clearly and that you have submitted all pieces of your submission.
- Step 9:** Review the rubric to ensure you have met all the requirements listed in the “Full Points” column.
- Step 10:** Submit and celebrate!

Don't forget the rubric on the next page!

Challenge #2: Seed Starting 101 Rubric

	Full Points	Half Points	No Points
Number of Seed Varieties	Five seed varieties are planted	Four seed varieties are planted	Fewer than four seed varieties are planted
Planting Procedure	Every seed variety is paired with an accurate procedure and necessary planting requirements (soil, water, light, etc.)	One seed variety is missing an accurate procedure and necessary planting requirements (soil, water, light, etc.)	More than one seed variety is missing a procedure and/or planting requirements are not identified
Photo Documentation	Every seed variety is paired with captioned photos	One seed variety is missing captioned photos	More than one seed variety is missing photos
Student Information	Student names and email addresses are clearly written		Student names and email addresses are missing
Due Date	Challenge was submitted by the due date of September 29		Challenge was not submitted by due date

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Standards Alignment

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- **Meets these Math standards:** S.ID.1, S.IC.5, MP.2, MP.4
- **Meets these Science standards:** HS-ETS1-3

Challenge #3:

Letters to Local Politicians

September

Description

Making your voice heard is important. As we advocate for positive change, we are contributing to a better future for all. Your challenge is to identify a policy, ordinance, law or issue that you want to change and write a letter to a local council member, mayor, governor, etc. with your ideas on how to resolve it. Letters should be concise yet thorough in explaining the issue, your stance, and possible solutions (see the rubric on the next page for details).



Resources

Find resources for writing to local politicians and using APA format at <https://civicgardencenter.org/green-teens-challenge>. For further support, email us at greenteens@civicgardencenter.org.

Steps to Success

- Step 1:** Read the description (above) and rubric (next page) for Challenge #3.
- Step 2:** Research what issue you plan to write about and decide which official you intend to send it to.
- Step 3:** Review formatting documents and links with advice on how to write to officials (located in the description above).
- Step 4:** Write your first draft.
- Step 5:** Have a friend or teacher review your draft.
- Step 6:** Make necessary edits.
- Step 7:** Finalize your and letter make two copies: one to submit and one to mail to your chosen official.
- Step 8:** Make sure your name and email are written clearly and that you have submitted all pieces of your submission.
- Step 9:** Review the rubric to make sure you have met all the “Full Points” column.
- Step 10:** Submit and celebrate!

Don't forget the rubric on the next page!

Challenge #3: Letters to Local Politicians Rubric

	Full Points	Half Points	No Points
Letter Format	Single page using APA format	More than one page or some aspects of APA format are not followed	More than one page and APA format is not followed
Letter Components	Letter states your name, identifies issue clearly, provides evidence, supporting claims, includes closing statement and signature	Letter is missing one or two components listed in the Full Points column	Letter is missing three or more components listed in the Full Points column
Grammar	Letter is free of grammatical errors and properly addressed to the intended recipient	Letter has no grammatical errors but is not properly addressed to the intended recipient	Letter has grammatical errors
Student Information	Student names and email addresses are clearly written		Student names and email addresses are missing
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Standards Alignment

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- **Meets these Math standards:** MP.2, MP.4
- **Meets these Science standards:** HS-ETS1-2, HS-ETS1-3