

National School Garden Program – Welcome Sign Example Messaging

Here are some examples of text from successful Slow Food School Garden Welcome Signs being produced. Please feel free to modify these messages for your own school's use.

Email lauren@slowfoodusa.org with any questions.

Mission of the School Garden

Columbian's School Garden mission is to provide students access to fresh, healthy produce and programs that engage students in on-going opportunities to learn about farming, health, ownership and leadership.

Students and volunteers will create and sustain our school garden to enhance: academic achievement, a healthy lifestyle, environmental stewardship, a connection to our earth and understanding of where our food comes from, and community and social development.

The mission of the Aspen Elementary School Magical Garden (AESMG) is to create and sustain an organic garden and landscape that is wholly integrated into the school's curriculum, culture, and food program.

AESMG involves students in all aspects of farming the garden, preparing, serving, and eating food as a means of awakening their senses and encouraging awareness and appreciation of the transformative values of nourishment, community, and stewardship of the land.

The mission of the AESMG is to create a healthy space for our students to build a relationship with the land, learn how to nourish themselves, and to make connections with the garden and their plates. We envision this an "edible education," like physical education, with an introduction to growing food, plant life cycle and composting. By providing students interactive experiences in the garden and kitchen classrooms, working hand in hand with our chef to help our students make and understand a closed cycle of food and waste.

Our mission is to engage children's minds, spirits, and bodily senses through the activities of gardening, cooking, and eating in order to grow thoughtful, responsible citizens of planet earth. The Willowbrook Garden serves as a biological classroom for the scientific study of life cycles and as a place where lessons in history, culture, art, math, and language come to life in fascinating new ways. Students also learn how to maintain a healthy, productive garden, through which we hope they develop an understanding of important ecological principles in the garden and learn to apply these principles to major environmental issues in our world today.

Our mission is to instill in our students the habits necessary to live a healthy lifestyle by growing organic vegetables in our school garden. This is the cornerstone in guiding students to make informed choices about food and using the experience to support academic success across grade levels.

Message from the School

Columbian Elementary School would like to thank UrbiCulture Community Farms, The Wolcott Family Foundation who helps fund the garden, The Kitchen Community for the raised beds, Principle Deborah Tu-Tygrs and Slow Food Denver for giving guidance and instruction every step of the way so that the students of Columbian Elementary have a wonderful garden that they learn so much from.

The garden group would like to thank all the students, advisors, volunteers and sponsors for their continued support of the JCOS garden. Your support has allowed us to add fresh produce to our school lunches through the Garden to Cafeteria program, to share our harvest in the Youth Farmer's Market, and allowed kids to enjoy the many benefits of gardening.

Thank you SPU administrators and staff for supporting our SAGE Garden. Our garden has created opportunities for children to discover the source of fresh, delicious food and to make healthy choices connected to the natural world. Our children will make better stewards of the earth by designing, planting, cultivating, and harvesting crops in their school garden with their own hands.

A Slow Food member, avid gardener and substitute teacher at AES, started the AESMG in 2008. She designed the garden and a curriculum to go along with it. The garden was generously established with funding from Slow Food, Aspen chapter. Thank you to our local Slow Foods organisation for supporting our garden.

The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul. -Alfred Austin

How to Get Involved

Welcome! We greatly appreciate your decision to join us at AES as a Magical Garden volunteer. Volunteers are integral to the success of our garden program, enriching and enlivening our daily work. Volunteers also find their time at the Magical Garden to be deeply rewarding. Most importantly, volunteers demonstrate to students the caring and commitment of their larger community.

We offer this handbook as a means of introducing you to the AES Magical Garden and our volunteer processes. We look forward to a rewarding relationship and are deeply grateful for your gift of time.

Come join our kids, teachers and community volunteers as we prepare, plant, maintain, harvest and use the gardens, outdoor classroom and interpretive area in support of our daily Garden to Cafeteria, weekly Back Pack Program, and seasonal School Farmer's Market initiatives.

Please get involved with our school garden! We have several volunteer opportunities in our new Willowbrook Farmer's Market and in garden maintenance - we could always use a helping hand with activities such as weeding, planting, and harvesting. Additionally, you're always welcome to attend one of our community events hosted by SEEDS, an educational nonprofit that we partner with, to help raise funds for the garden programs.

Please join our Lincoln Living Lab and help support the garden. We have volunteer opportunities and we always could use an extra helping hand and financial support in maintaining the garden beds.

Please join the Conwell Family Garden Team, and help support our journey in growing sustainable healthy food. Volunteer opportunities include: becoming a member of our Green Team, assisting with our composting program and providing hands on assistance with maintaining our school garden.