

Neighborhood Farm Initiative Kitchen Garden Education Program Program Schedule and Application

The Neighborhood Farm Initiative's Kitchen Garden Education Program is a year-long program for new and aspiring urban gardeners. We offer hands-on training and experience in growing a wide variety of food crops over an extended growing season. The program operates in partnership with the Mamie D Lee Community Garden at Fort Totten, which is where we grow. The garden is located near 100 Gallatin St, NE, Washington DC, adjacent to the Fort Totten Metro Station.

Program participants receive:

- a small garden plot for a year of growing
- access to the community tool shed
- all necessary supplies & materials
- seeds and seedlings for transplants throughout the season
- instructions, guidance, and individualized support

This program requires sustained self-motivation. Students are expected to work independently in their plots on a regular basis – **at least once each week for at least four hours**, on their own time. Optional Garden Mentor hours are scheduled on Saturday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Classes will be held on Saturday mornings in the Mamie D Lee Community Garden at Fort Totten, two blocks from the Fort Totten Metro station, in NE Washington, DC. The first class on Saturday February 17th is mandatory and will be hosted indoors in the community space at RhizomeDC, in Takoma. Subsequent classes will be in the Fort Totten garden.

Program Lecture Calendar

*Feb 17	Introduction, Seed Kits, Seed-Starting Indoors
*March 3	Plot Assignments
March 17	The Living Soil
March 31	Seeds Direct Sowing
April 14	Garden Planning: Succession, Companion, and inter-Planting
April 28	Weeds: Food or Medicine
May 12	Pest Management
May 26	Troubleshooting and Diagnosis of Disease
June 9	Pruning and Staking
July 14	Composting
Sept 8	Fall crops and seed saving
Sept 29	Cover Crops and extending the growing season
Oct 20	Row Cover workshop

**Mandatory attendance for new and returning students*

The format of these Saturday morning lectures is a 90-minute, informal, in-the-garden discussion followed by a 90-minute working/mentoring session where students will have to opportunity ask questions and observe simple demonstrations. Wednesday sessions are optional, but will be offered throughout the growing season (weather permitting). We have learned that partnerships work well in this program and so encourage families and friends to team up on this growing project.



Throughout the duration of the program, students are expected to spend a minimum of four hours per week in the garden, in addition to class time, to plant, tend, and harvest their garden plot, the first several weeks, during March and April, you will have to spend a little more time getting your plot cleared and readied for spring planting. There is a direct correlation between time spent in the garden and the degree of success and satisfaction you get from the program; you should plan to visit the garden multiple times each week. Committed students can expect to gain significant skill, knowledge, and confidence in growing a wide variety of food crops, and to take home abundant harvest from their personal plot.

Students who are not able to maintain their plots free of weeds and in compliance with the Mamie D Lee Garden rules, will not be permitted to continue in the program and their plots will be returned to NFI for assignment to new gardeners on our waiting list. Over the course of the year-long program, each student is also required to contribute at least two hours of volunteer community service helping to maintain paths and other community resources. Volunteer hours can be earned either during scheduled Saturday morning community garden workdays, or can be done on the students' own time.

The program cost is \$600. There is a \$50 administrative fee for 'plot-sharing' with a friend. Full and partial **scholarships, and work-study are available** for qualifying applicants. For scholarship information or to arrange a payment plan, email Ann@NeighborhoodFarmInitiative.org

Space can be reserved by submitting this application with a \$50 deposit that will be applied toward your tuition. Unless other payment arrangements are made, payment in full is due at the start of the first class. Contact Ann for payment options

Please sign below to affirm that you have read and understood the program information presented here.

Applicant's Signature _____ *date* _____



Kitchen Garden Education Program Application

Applicant Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone (*please specify if text messaging is available*) _____

Emergency Contact (name & phone number) _____

Please answer the following questions:

1. How did you hear about the NFI's Kitchen Garden Education Program?
2. Describe your previous gardening experience.
3. Why do you want to learn how to grow food?
4. How do you plan to integrate regular visits to the garden into your weekly schedule?

Applicant's Signature _____ date _____

Submit this application, with payment or automated payment confirmation, by email to:
Ann@neighborhoodfarminitiative.org

or by mail to:
Neighborhood Farm Initiative
6808 Laurel Street, NW
Washington, DC 20012-2012

