

TOLLAND YOUTH GARDEN OFFERING STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM FOR YOUTH

Youth going into Middle School through High School in the fall can get involved as TOLLAND YOUTH GARDEN STEWARDS. TYG Stewards serve as mentors, role models and instructors for the Crandall Park campers who will attend the 2018 TYG summer gardening camp, GROWING SMILES. Wonderful and surprising things happen when kids get into gardening. Gardening helps close the growing gap between kids and nature. Stewards learn to identify plants and critters. They are involved in planning and preparing garden beds, designing and leading gardening activities for young children, leading meadow walks, and much more. The benefits of community service and healthy living can grow out of a gardening experience too. Stewards share what they grow with their families and harvest over 350 pounds of fresh produce for the Tolland Food Bank and Cornerstone Community Kitchen in Rockville.

There will be a **GARDEN STEWARDS WORKSHOP** for Middle and High School youth on Tuesday, June 12 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Youth Garden located in Crandall Park on Cider Mill RD in Tolland, (rainy day location is at the United Congregational Church of Tolland on the Green). Participants will learn how to keep younger children safe and having fun while exploring the joys and benefits of gardening. Stewards assist adult instructors at GROWING SMILES, the TYG 2018 summer camp for kids ages 5 - 10 on Tuesday mornings June 26 - August 7 at the Youth Garden. Campers have fun being soil detectives, making friends with butterflies, birds and baffling bugs, planting and tending a rainbow of herbs, flowers and veggies to harvest and share. Instructors include Master Gardeners, teachers, and birders from the Tolland Garden Paths Garden Club. To learn more about the Youth Garden go to Tolland Youth Garden on Facebook. To volunteer to be a TYG Steward please contact Sandie Benjamin tollandyouthgarden@gmail.com or call 860-214-2406.