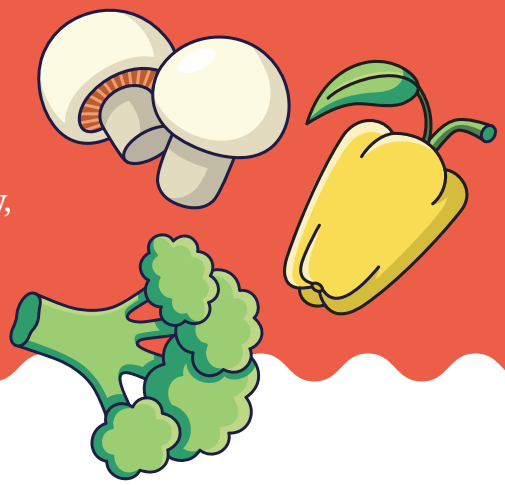
Grow NE

Food Systems Programming

Beyond School Bells
nebraskachildren

Grow NE supports afterschool and summer Expanded Learning Opportunities related to food systems: gardening, agriculture, local foods and so much more. High school students lead the way, with support from program staff.



What Grow NE Funding Covers:

Grow NE contracts support high school student leadership of afterschool and summer clubs and activities. Funding can include:

- Wages or stipends for high school leaders and adult staff
- Gardening tools and supplies
- Club activity expenses, such as field trips and family engagement events

What's Required:

Grow NE clubs have all three parts, all led by high school students and supported by adult staff. Beyond School Bells will provide monthly meetings, collaboration, and support as needed.

National Geographic Slingshot Challenge

Students take part in the **Slingshot Challenge** with a focus on food systems. This service-learning opportunity asks youth to identify a local environmental challenge, then research, brainstorm and propose a solution.

- *Deliverable:* a 60-second video documenting the challenge and the proposed solution

Food Systems Club Leadership

High school students lead food systems activities with younger students in afterschool programs, using resources such as **Gardening for Pollinators** and **Harvest of the Month**.

- Programming should happen consistently throughout the school year
- Include professional development and planning time for high school leaders

Food Systems Career Connections

Students connect with people working in food systems, in person or virtually:

- Local professionals such as farmers, chefs and restaurateurs
- School-based staff such as cafeteria and nutrition staff or culinary teachers

How Program Staff Support Clubs:

High school students will likely be new to leading programming, so adult staff support is essential. Staff help students with:

- The Slingshot Challenge and club leadership requirements above
- Activity design, selection, materials
- Facilitating food systems club activities, lessons, and experiences

We recommend using Grow NE funding to provide wages or stipends for adult staff in this role.



Questions?

Contact Alexus Hansen at ***ahansen@nebraskachildren.org*** to learn more.

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