Grow NE 2025-26 Application

Grow NE is a Beyond School Bells program that supports afterschool and summer Expanded Learning Opportunities related to Food Systems – gardening, agriculture, local foods, and so much more. Grow NE contracts and technical assistance are offered to support high school student leadership of afterschool and summer clubs and activities.

The goal of Grow NE is to empower Nebraska's young leaders to engage in and become leaders of local food systems, from preparing gardens to composting food waste. Grow NE contracts can support program needs to achieve this goal including student and staff stipends, garden supplies and technology, and club events and field trips.

This year, Beyond School Bells is broadening the scope of Grow NE support to include 4 tracks of programming: Innovative Agriculture, Local Food Systems, Sustainable Growing, and Afterschool to Table. Programs can apply for a single track up to $5,000; all tracks require HS leadership participation in the [National Geographic Slingshot Challenge](https://www.nationalgeographic.org/society/projects/slingshot/). BSB can provide direct support and TA as needed. Apply to individual Grow NE tracks below:

# Program Information

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Director Name(s): | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Director email: | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Additional contacts to be included: | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Program Name: | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Community (ex. Lincoln): | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Who will lead your Food Systems Programming? | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| How many students are in your program? | Click or tap here to enter text. |

# Club information

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Do you have an existing outdoor garden? | Yes ☐ No ☐ |
| Do you have an existing indoor garden tower? | Yes ☐ No ☐ |
| Do you have other gardening spaces? | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Do you have HS student leaders? | Yes ☐ Recruiting ☐ |
| What grades will engage in the club & gardens? | Click or tap here to enter text. |

Submit applications to Alexus Hansen ([ahansen@nebraskachildren.org](mailto:ahansen@nebraskachildren.org)) and Dakota Staggs ([dstaggs@nebraskachildren.org](mailto:dstaggs@nebraskachildren.org)) by September 1st for fall clubs.

Innovative Agriculture

Grow NE: Innovative Agriculture is designed to engage youth in innovative ways to grow food locally throughout the year. This track recommends club resources from [Let's Get Growing from Nebraska Ag in the Classroom](https://nefbfoundation.org/camp-guides/) and can support the purchase of a hydroponics garden or other growing technology. The primary learning goal is to introduce youth to new and engaging ways of growing food.

## Application Questions:

### What are your three top goals for your club?

### How will your club be structured? (start / end, frequency, staff oversight, student leadership)

### What Innovative Agriculture do you want to incorporate and how?

### Are there any community partners or connections you’d like to include?

### All clubs must include HS student leadership, including their participation in the National Geographic Slingshot Challenge. How will HS students engage in your club?

## What club resources or curriculum do you plan to use (or would you like assistance)?

### Proposed budget

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Budget Category | Amount | Detail |
| Wages |  |  |
| Taxes / Benefits |  |  |
| Office Operations |  |  |
| Travel |  |  |
| Supplies |  |  |
| Training and Outreach |  |  |
| Contracting and Consulting |  |  |
| Other |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Total |  |  |

### Please describe your proposed budget including details.

Include details like number and role of staff, field trip destination (if applicable), kinds of supplies. We do not require an itemized supply list for this application but may request additional detail if needed.

Budget details:

Local Food Systems

Grow NE: Local Food Systems is designed to introduce and connect youth to their local food systems. This track recommends club resources from [NDE’s Farm to School Harvest of the Month](https://www.education.ne.gov/ns/farm-to-school/harvest-of-the-month/#1686152539965-a8a4205e-1f1a) and can support the purchase of local foods or hosting an event with local foods (farmers market, family engagement, harvest celebration). The primary learning goal is to engage youth in local food systems and connect them to local agriculture.

## Application Questions:

### What are your three top goals for your club?

### How will your club be structured? (start / end, frequency, staff oversight, student leadership)

### What Local Food do you want to incorporate and how?

### Are there any community partners or connections you’d like to include?

### All clubs must include HS student leadership, including their participation in the National Geographic Slingshot Challenge. How will HS students engage in your club?

## What club resources or curriculum do you plan to use (or would you like assistance)?

### Proposed budget

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Budget Category | Amount | Detail |
| Wages |  |  |
| Taxes / Benefits |  |  |
| Office Operations |  |  |
| Travel |  |  |
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| Training and Outreach |  |  |
| Contracting and Consulting |  |  |
| Other |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Total |  |  |

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Budget details:

Sustainable Growing

Grow NE: Sustainable Growing is designed for students to explore the world of regenerative agriculture and view gardening through the lens of ecology, the relationships between living organisms and their environment. This track recommends club resources from [Kiss the Ground](https://kisstheground.com/education/resources/childrens-education/#gradelevel) and [Regenerative Farmers of America](https://www.regenerativefarmersofamerica.com/childrens-educational-resources-for-regenerative-agriculture) and can support the purchase of gardening supplies, learning resources such as books and speakers, or field trips to sustainable farms in the area. The primary learning goal is to introduce youth to the benefits of utilizing ecology in agriculture.

## Application Questions:

### What are your three top goals for your club?

### How will your club be structured? (start / end, frequency, staff oversight, student leadership)

### What Sustainable Growing practice(s) do you want to incorporate and how?

### Are there any community partners or connections you’d like to include?

### All clubs must include HS student leadership, including their participation in the National Geographic Slingshot Challenge. How will HS students engage in your club?

## What club resources or curriculum do you plan to use (or would you like assistance)?

### Proposed budget

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Budget Category | Amount | Detail |
| Wages |  |  |
| Taxes / Benefits |  |  |
| Office Operations |  |  |
| Travel |  |  |
| Supplies |  |  |
| Training and Outreach |  |  |
| Contracting and Consulting |  |  |
| Other |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Total |  |  |

### Please describe your proposed budget including details.

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Budget details:

Afterschool to Table

Grow NE: Afterschool to Table is designed to introduce seasonal foods, culinary skills, and connect youth to Farm to School efforts. This track recommends club resources from [NDE’s Farm to School Harvest of the Month](https://www.education.ne.gov/ns/farm-to-school/harvest-of-the-month/#1686152539965-a8a4205e-1f1a) and [UNL 4H’s We Cook](https://marketplace.unl.edu/extension/wecook-curriculum.html). This track can support training youth in kitchens, gardening, and cooking activities to produce and prepare local foods. The primary learning goal is to engage youth in Farm to School efforts.

## Application Questions:

### What are your three top goals for your club?

### How will your club be structured? (start / end, frequency, staff oversight, student leadership)

### What Local Food do you want to incorporate and how?

### Are there any community partners or connections you’d like to include?

### All clubs must include HS student leadership, including their participation in the National Geographic Slingshot Challenge. How will HS students engage in your club?

## What club resources or curriculum do you plan to use (or would you like assistance)?

### Proposed budget

|  |  |  |
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| Budget Category | Amount | Detail |
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| Other |  |  |
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| Total |  |  |

### Please describe your proposed budget including details.

Include details like number and role of staff, field trip destination (if applicable), kinds of supplies. We do not require an itemized supply list for this application but may request additional detail if needed.

Budget details: