

Sudduth Seed Garden

Project Executive Summary

We are the Sudduth Elementary School's SEED garden team, and we work with the school's SEED program to educate the students about nutrition and gardening. Our team aspired to improve the garden by building a bridge and trellis so that the students would be able to walk through the garden and enjoy it more. Our team accomplished our goals of creating the bridge and trellis. Through our efforts, including attending our regular daily service hours with the classes, we more than doubled the amount of children involved with our program. Even though we did not have as much access to the garden as we thought we would, we believe we accomplished the SEED's overall goal.

We can see the impact we are making on the children through their memory of the lessons we teach and the excitement on their faces when we enter the room. Our project goals will have a positive impact on the school. Our lessons teach the kids more about the importance of healthier lifestyles, seasons and environments, and the process of growth. But, most importantly, we have shown the students that we care. We have served over 200 students in this way and our team has contributed over 150 hours to this project. This opportunity has not only benefitted the school, the children, and the community, but the whole experience has also benefitted us, teaching us about ourselves and the meaning of service and leadership.

Throughout our time doing this service project, we have encountered a few challenges, such as, bonding with one another, time management, communication, and finding the ability to work in the garden. Like any team, it took some time to get acquainted with each other. We were all new to the program, the school, and to the community. Yet, over time and through growing

with each other in this learning experience, we found that we enjoyed each other's company and worked well with one another. In-class bonding activities also helped us grow more familiar with each other. We also made sure we did a better job at listening and checking our group chat, plus emails, for updates to overcome our communication challenge. The biggest obstacle our team faced was that of our workspace (the garden) being a construction zone for the rebuilding of the roof. This hindered us from working in the garden for some of the times we had planned for, and pushed our projects back some as well. We have had to make our way around this obstacle by investing in classroom time. We have also had to work on weekends to get trellis and the bridge completed.

We have learned many lessons throughout this experience. We have learned that leadership comes in all different ways. We have learned that we must be comfortable with each other in order to become a team. We also learned that responsibility is key for planning, and the ability to adapt to any and all obstacles is vital to service and leadership. When we first came together in this journey, we were told we would be doing lots of gardening, so most of us believed we would come out of this experience with a green thumb. Ironically, we barely did any actual gardening, and instead, learned much more about carpentry, teamwork and teaching. These were surprising lessons, but were also very beneficial. This allows us to work better in groups in the future, and helps us have a better understanding of the value of commitment and responsibility as well as the motivation to take action.