



WSU MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

In response to many requests for home gardening information the statewide WSU Master Gardener program has created an online Home Horticulture training program. Registration for this online program will close on December 18, 2020. Classes will be on Saturday's from January 9 – April 24, 2021 via Zoom. Details about the training can be found here. <https://extension.wsu.edu/thurston/gardening/wsu-home-horticulture-training/>

4-H PROGRAM

The Thurston County 4-H Program celebrated Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) with 4-H STEM month in October. 4-H youth were invited to participate in fun and engaging STEM activities all month long, including learning about Mars and what it takes to send a mission to the red planet.

During these challenging times, Thurston County 4-H youth who raise and care for animals have continued to work towards their 4-H project goals. Even though 4-H instruction is being conducted virtually, our local youth are still able to demonstrate their skill and knowledge through Zoom workshops and online contests.

Thurston County 4-H kicked-off the new year with a variety of online learning opportunities. 4-H members participated in virtual dog obedience, robotic hand building, and making bread in a bag.

In the coming weeks, 4-H youth and their friends are invited to "Experience 4-H" with rabbit care basics, a holiday craft activity, simple sewing, and introduction to drawing.



Thurston County

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES — NOVEMBER 2020



SNAP-ED

Continuing to adapt in COVID times, SNAP-Ed is moving from direct education in the classroom, to virtual nutrition education classes. This required an adaption of current curriculum, extensive training and patience. Staying connected to our school partners, we see that families continue to struggle. Reinstating the Meal Kit program at Garfield Elementary, we are providing food for families every other week. Connecting with a local church, we are providing Holiday Food Bundles to struggling families for Thanksgiving and winter break. This month concludes our Regional Food Security project, with a final 11th cooking video, focused on storage and winter vegetables. Through the month of December, we will work with OSD Nutrition Services, to promote the fresh local vegetables they are providing free to families at lunch sites across the district.



WATER RESOURCES — NATIVE PLANT SALVAGE

The water resources/native plant team implemented a water-wise stormwater pollution-prevention project on a 7,000 sq. ft. section of eroding landscape at the Thurston Co. Corrections Facility. For COVID safety, volunteers worked in small groups, separated by different shifts to keep numbers low and still accomplish this challenging project in a little over a week. A total of 46 volunteers worked 201 hours installing 558 plants into the compacted soils. To smother the weeds between the new plantings, the team layered about 550 burlap sacks and 2 yards of cardboard, then covered the whole area in 60 yards of mulch. This work was the final part of a multi-year restoration of the outer landscape at the facility, which drains into a nearby salmon-bearing stream.