Dear Parents, Grandparents, & Educators,

We are proud to offer our Open Garden Days, complete with free adult workshops and educational activities for kids every month. We hope this will provide you with an excellent resource to integrate a science-based, hands-on learning element to your youngsters understanding of plants and gardening.

Some details about our new Open Garden Days that might interest you are:

- **All Ages Welcome**
  We believe there is no inappropriate age for gardening, and as such, we are offering an hour-long workshop or activity for all visitors starting at 10am:
  1. **Adult Workshops** – These workshops are designed to give you a hands-on understanding of various aspects of gardening;
  2. **Children’s Educational Activities** – These activities are designed to introduce children 7 and older to a topical, hands-on approach to basic aspects of gardening. Older kids are welcome to help their younger siblings as well, and all High School age children are welcome to join the Adult Workshop; and
  3. **Young Explorers** – These activities introduce simple gardening concepts and encourage exploration of the natural world to children under 7. While Master Gardeners will be on hand to assist, we kindly ask that parents lead their kids in these activities and ensure one adult/parent for every two Explorers.

- **Variety**
  We will be focusing on a different topic at each Open Garden Day. Incidentally, if you’d like to learn even more, we have coordinated our topics with our wonderful Green Thumb Lecture Series. For more information about these lectures, please visit: [https://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/pubGreenThumb.aspx](https://hcmga.tamu.edu/Public/pubGreenThumb.aspx)

- **Rain or Shine**
  Don’t let inclement weather stop you from coming out. We will be offering our workshops/activities indoors when our crazy Texas weather tries to thwart our plans. In the event of severe weather, please see our Facebook page for updates.

- **Safety**
  We understand how important your kids are, and all of our Master Gardener volunteers have passed a background check and been approved to work with children. While you are welcome to stay with your kids for the activity, we also encourage you to participate in our adult workshop to help you expand your learning.

- **Tours**
  We are very proud of our gardens and encourage you to explore them before and after our workshops/activities (from 9-10 a.m. and from 11-11:30 a.m.). While our tours are self-led, maps of the gardens are available, and Master Gardeners will be in each garden ready to answer your questions. Groups of 10 or more are welcome to request a formal tour led by one of our Master Gardeners. Kindly give a minimum of one week’s notice. To request a formal tour, please call Will at 832.264.3466 or email ogd.harrishort@gmail.com.

We hope you will come out and participate in all we have to offer. We encourage you to share this information with anyone you know who might be interested. As always, we would love to hear from you if you have any ideas to make these days more beneficial to you and your kids or if you have any feedback once you’ve ventured out and joined us. Questions or comments can be sent to ogd.harrishort@gmail.com.

See you in the gardens!

Kind regards,

Harris County Master Gardens and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

P.S. If interested in OGD, we encourage you to sign-up for our email updates. These have details on what the specific workshops and activities will be that month and a reminder of the next month’s topic. Your information WILL NOT be shared or sold to any third-parties. To sign-up, go to the following URL: [http://eepurl.com/EJz2r](http://eepurl.com/EJz2r)