

# JUNIOR BADGES TO DO AT HOME



**C**reating a bright bouquet of fresh flowers, making a dish with garden-fresh herbs, growing a little green cheer inside with houseplants—these are all things a gardener gets to do. In this badge, dig your hands into the earth and spend time with soil, water, and sunlight to find out how to help life grow from a tiny seed. You can make your own garden—no matter where you live!

### Steps

1. Visit a garden
2. Explore garden design
3. Learn how to choose garden plants
4. Experiment with seeds
5. Grow your own garden

### Purpose

When I've earned with this badge, I'll know how to help plants and flowers grow.

# Gardener

*To earn this badge, please complete one option per step.*

## Tips Before Takeoff

- You'll plant a garden in step 5. Your garden can be big or small, inside or out. If you have enough space, you can do steps
- 2-5 with your final garden in mind. Or you can use the steps to explore gardening in general, and focus on your garden when you get to step 5.

STEPS	BADGE REQUIREMENTS	OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3
Step 1	Visit a garden	<p><b>Visit an outdoor garden.</b> While walking your neighborhood, check out a garden in the front of a neighbor's house, in a public space in your community, or in your own yard. Take photos or make sketches or drawings of your favorite plants in case you decide to grow them yourself. Learn how they grow by researching online or in a book.</p>	<p><b>Take a virtual tour online of an indoor garden.</b> <a href="#">See what it takes to grow plants inside a greenhouse</a> or hothouse. Research online about a botanical garden or nursery. Learn why gardeners keep the temperature set differently in different areas.</p>	<p><b><a href="#">Take a virtual tour of a landscaped garden.</a></b> Find online a landscaped garden with pruned shrubs and lines of plants and other flowers. Many cities and large houses have specially landscaped gardens.</p>

<b>Step 2</b>	Explore garden design	<b>Plan your dream garden.</b> Cut out pictures of flowers, trees, and other plants from magazines, newspapers, online sources, etc. Then arrange a garden plan that appeals to you. Use the photos to experiment with various layouts. What kinds of colors, patterns, and shapes are your favorites?	<b>Look into surprising gardens.</b> Gather information about three surprising gardens—try to find out who designed them and how they did it. What about rooftop gardens, English landscape gardens, palace gardens, midnight gardens, or gardens meant to attract certain insects or animals? Then imagine a special garden of your own. Share your idea in a sketch	<b>Make a mini Zen garden.</b> Zen gardens are from Japan, and use rocks, gravel, and other structures to represent natural things like ocean waves or swaying trees. Zen gardeners rake gravel in certain patterns to make people feel at peace. Find ideas online in photos of Zen gardens, then make your own. ( <a href="#">With an adult's help, find easy instructions online.</a> )
<b>Step 3</b>	Learn how to choose garden plants	<b>Learn about six plants that will grow in your hardiness zone.</b> <a href="#">Learn which plant zone you live in</a> and which plants like your local climate and type of soil.	<b>Learn about six plants that grow in different ways.</b> A gardener can begin to grow a plant from a seed, a bulb, or from roots. Find two plants you could grow from seeds, two from bulbs, and two from roots that are likely to do well in your garden.	<b>Learn about six seasonal plants.</b> Some plants only grow during certain seasons. Find three plants that would do well during the time of year you'd like to grow your garden. Find out whether your plants are “annuals,” which only grow one season and then die, or “perennials,” which come back every year.
<b>Step 4</b>	Experiment with seeds: <i>If you can, do this step where you'll plant your garden in step 5. It should be a place where the plants can get plenty of sunlight and not too many people will bother them. Using an empty egg carton and 12 seeds from a plant you like, experiment with what works best when growing plants in your space.</i>	<b>Experiment with soil.</b> In two sections of the carton, add two tablespoons of soil. In the next two sections, add only one. Add one seed to each section. Cover the seeds with some of the soil and add a little water every day.	<b>Experiment with water.</b> Add two tablespoons of potting soil and a seed to each of four sections. Water two sections every day and water the two other sections every three days.	<b>Experiment with sunlight.</b> Add two tablespoons of potting soil and a seed to each of four sections. Cover two sections with paper cups. Add the same amount of water every day to all four sections.

<p><b>Step 5</b></p>	<p>Grow your own garden : <i>Create your own garden with the six plants you found in step 3, six ordered from an online gardening store, or six from the vegetable seeds found in your home. Follow the spacing and planting directions that come with them, and be sure to ask for help with planting and permission for your space.</i></p>	<p><b>Plant an outdoor garden.</b>          If you have access to a yard, perhaps there's a plot you can use. Or you might plant a garden in a small planter or an outdoor window box.</p>	<p><b>Plant an indoor garden.</b>          Houseplants can be part of beautiful indoor gardens. If you have access to a greenhouse or hothouse, you could grow your indoor garden there-or perhaps at a sunny spot inside your own home!</p>	<p><b>Help dream up a community or school garden.</b> Many schools and cities offer public gardening spaces. There might be a garden at your place of worship, your library, or in front of town hall. Perhaps one of these places could use your gardening help? Develop a garden plan and then share by email your design ideas.</p>
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