

AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S  
17<sup>th</sup> Annual National Children & Youth Garden Symposium Call for Sessions  
**Common Ground: Gardens for a Greener Tomorrow**

July 23-25, 2009-Cleveland, Ohio  
Hosted by the Cleveland Botanical Garden

***Deadline for Receipt of Proposals is December 15, 2008***

Gardens can be a common denominator and model for living and growing together. Whether we garden in a rural or urban setting, in a vacant lot or on a verdant plot we all work with plants. Our diversity in age, gender, skin color, ethnicity, religious affiliation, and education only make the experience richer. The simple truth is that gardens bring us together—they offer a level playing field, a safe haven, a place to share seeds, traditions, and ideas, a common ground for humanity.

Join leading national children's and youth gardening experts, teachers, parents, volunteers, and youth to explore how gardens bring together diverse communities and foster curiosity, wonder, beauty, understanding, and acceptance. Let's come together on this common ground, sharing our creativity and life experiences to forge a greener tomorrow for all to enjoy.

Gain insights and valuable resources from peers as the momentum continues to grow, drawing people from across the nation, from various organizations, institutions, and regions to exchange creative ideas for children's and youth gardening programs.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING SESSION PROPOSALS**

Proposals can either be submitted online at [www.ahs.org](http://www.ahs.org) though the youth gardening section of the website or submitted by mail or fax to the address at the end of the form. All proposals for sessions are due by close of business on Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Selection Process:** The NCYGS Educational Session Review Panel will meet in January to select the 2009 sessions. By February 5<sup>th</sup> notifications regarding the status of each proposal will be sent out. Please note the Session Review Panel may accept the proposal under a different format than originally proposed i.e. a lecture proposal may be offered as a poster. The Review Panel may also accept a session pending alterations to the scope, format, or educational objectives.

Keep in mind when writing the proposal, that the Review Panel will be making decisions based upon what is presented in the proposal. In order to deliver diverse and high-quality session any changes to the session proposal after acceptance must be authorized by the AHS.

Proposals will be evaluated for 1) Originality; 2) Quality; 3) Significance to Children & Youth Gardening; and 4) Value to Practitioner. The Review Panel also strives to offer a balanced program, with educational sessions speaking to the various intended audiences (pre-K, K-5, Middle School, High School) and the primary foci (Curriculum, Garden Design, Creation, and Maintenance, Administration and Funding, Evaluation, Program Overview, Basic Horticulture/Science, Leadership, Literature, Horticulture Therapy.)

**Expectations of Presenters of Lectures and Workshops:**

Presenters are strongly encouraged to have hand-outs or for their session, to provide attendees with resources and further information to take home. The presenters will not be compensated for their travel, registration, or material costs. In appreciation of the presenter's time and efforts, presenters will be offered a \$50 discount off either a daily or full-Symposium registration (does not apply to poster session presenters).