

SAVANNAH'S ORGANIC GARDEN PROGRAM

Thanks so much for your interest in Savannah's Organic Garden Program ("SOGP")! This program is designed to promote organic farming, health awareness and environmental conservation through the construction of sustainable organic gardens. These Gardens are designed and built by Savannah's Organic Ranch, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, based in Aliso Viejo, CA. SOGP is inspired by our founding angel, Savannah Lee Sachen's belief that eating an organic diet has tremendous health benefits and positive environmental impacts.



Savannah dreamed of educating all people about the positive benefits of eating organic foods, and living active, healthy lifestyles. She understood the environmental benefits of sustainable organic farming and had goals of sharing that knowledge with everyone. Savannah knew it was especially important to pass along her knowledge to other children. The foundation for SOGP was developed to carry out Savannah's dreams and goals through the construction of sustainable organic gardens. Savannah's Organic Ranch is committed to building as many of these gardens as possible.

If you share Savannah's commitments to children and the environment, we want to hear from you! Our Garden Committee carefully evaluates applications and awards gardens to those organizations it believes are most committed to Savannah's goals. On-going education, maintenance, harvesting and promoting healthy lifestyles are the pillars of

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the SOGP. Your commitment to these actions is one of the most important attributes your organization can contribute to the SOGP process. It is important to explain how your organization intends to accept the responsibility and how you plan to support the maintenance and on-going education.

As a general guideline, we require applicants have the following:

- An active “children oriented” school or year round youth activity programming;
- A person(s) willing to take on the responsibility of being a SOGP Liaison; will be responsible for interacting with the SOGP Design and implementation team, coordinating the volunteers for “build weekend”, administering and promoting educational garden workshops, fund raising efforts to enrich the SOGP at your garden, health awareness and environmental workshops and communicating with Savannah's Organic Ranch SOGP Director;
- A commitment on the part of the application organization to allow SOR educational programming as appropriate into the school/group on at least a quarterly programming basis to communicate the benefits of organic foods and eating healthy.
- A commitment to maintaining the garden, providing adequate irrigation, and weed control and willingness to commit to the on-going garden maintenance;
- An ability and interest in “harvesting your crops!” When the crops are ready for harvesting, applicants should “get in there and enjoy.” Remember, it's not a science project...it's a way of life!
- A financial commitment of no less than 10% of the estimated costs of the project (implementation estimated at \$5,000 per garden) and a commitment to maintain the garden, or to provide 25% of ongoing maintenance costs annually (estimated at \$250 annually for 25%)
 - o Your financial commitment can be to “fund” these costs, or to raise them with a bake sale, local donor, or community group donation. PTA organizations have been particularly interested in our work.
- A willingness to promote and support Savannah's Organic Ranch with a minimum of one annual inclusion in an e-newsletter or newsletter communication, and willingness and ability to distribute no less than one flyer provided by SOR describing programming, services etc (with content to be approved by applicant)

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The SOGP is a dynamic and interactive educational program that may require coordinated program wide participation and involvement. We also recognize that our SOGP recipients, through their active participation, are great sources for new ideas. We welcome and encourage feedback and program ideas that can be implemented and shared among all of our Recipients.

Our Build schedule is coordinated throughout the calendar year and is based upon many factors. We have committed to Savannah to build each Garden with the same level of Recipient screening, well thought out design, build quality, and ability to schedule our Garden Dedication Day. Garden recipients will generally be contacted 60 days prior to our expected Build Day. If unforeseen circumstances prohibit us from building your Garden in the calendar year planned, you will remain on the short list for building prior to the following year's Recipients.

How to Apply: All interested and qualified organizations must apply to be evaluated for selection. Savannah's Organic Ranch intends to select approximately 4 Gardens Recipients per year. All applicants desiring consideration for a Garden must apply by September 30th of the year preceding the calendar year in which you request us to build your garden. Selection will be made by December 31st, with notifications mailed out in January. Scheduling will be coordinated between the SOGP Director and each individual Recipient. Please complete the following Savannah's Organic Garden Application and mail it to us.

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Application for Savannah's Organic Garden Recipient

Name of Organization:

Address:

Contact Person & Phone number or e-mail:

Briefly describe your educational philosophy and why the garden will assist your efforts:

Year Round school?

Number of children enrolled and grades:

Number of children enrolled in grades K-

2:

Do you have a spot selected for the SOG?

Does it have an irrigation system?

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Fresh or reclaimed water?

If the irrigation system needs to be modified, will your district/organization contribute to the costs associated with retrofit?

Does it get proper

sunshine? _____

What is currently growing on the proposed Site?

Do you have someone who will be responsible for maintenance?

How will you commit to maintain, harvest & nurture your

SOG? _____

Who will be your organization's liaison to Savannah's Organic Ranch?

Contact Person, Phone number and e-mail:

Why is your Organization applying for a SOG?

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Will your organization contribute to the cost of construction, raise funds for its construction, or seek a local donor to offset the costs (describe)? _____

Approximate contribution (Minimum suggested is 10% of the projected costs, or approximately \$500*):

How will you promote environmental friendly, sustainable, local Organic Gardening?

Will you participate in and organize educational classes for the benefit of the children?

Can you commit to an annual Savannah's Organic Garden fund raising event to support your on-going education and maintenance requirements? _____

Please attach any other information (pictures, sketches, and other materials) that may help us evaluate your garden application.

* if your organization is unable to provide assistance, please attach letter stating reasons you cannot commit to the initial suggested contribution, or ability to raise funds for on-going maintenance. SOR will not discriminate against organizations that cannot provide assistance.