



## REAL school gardens

### Professional Development Day

Thursday, August 6, 2009 ■ 8:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Woodway Elementary, Fort Worth

## Request for Proposals

REAL School Gardens invites you to submit a proposal sharing your knowledge of how to connect children, families, and schools to nature. We hope your outdoor learning experiences inspire you to present your skills at our next professional development event. Please, read the information here and submit the following proposal form for the Professional Development Day **no later than March 13, 2009**. You will be notified whether your proposal has been accepted by March 23. If your proposal is accepted, we ask that you attend a presenters' meeting on April 1 late afternoon (time to be determined).

The RSG theme for this year is **“Question the System.”** It gives teachers, administrators, parents, and community volunteers an opportunity to:

- Use outdoor learning as the starting place for doing things differently.
- Teach children to ask questions and become creative thinkers.
- Foster children's natural curiosity and facilitate their learning about earth's natural systems.
- Help children find a sense of belonging to their own place in the world, leading to love and protection of the earth.

### *Strands*

- **Where Am I?** How's our sense of place? How can we get to know the place where we are better? What's here? Why is it here? How is it doing? How is everything connected?
- **Water We Doing?** Where does our water come from? What's a watershed? Why is it important? How can we learn from the natural and man-made water features in and around schools? How can we protect and restore our water systems?
- **To Eat or Not to Eat?** Where does our food come from? What can children learn from growing food? What do we do with the harvest? What about waste? How can we connect schools to farms?
- **Where Do I Start?** What do I need to know about gardening to get started? How do we get the soil ready? What should we plant? What grows in winter? How do I start project learning?

### ***Goals***

To provide educators with techniques, tools and hands-on activities that work in outdoor settings; to inspire and assist educators to use their gardens to teach various subjects effectively; to model student-centered inquiry-based instructional strategies; to grow the gardening skills and knowledge of the school community; to give the REAL School Gardens community opportunities to reflect on new ideas.

### ***Tiers***

To embrace different levels of experience in outdoor learning, two tiers of training are offered: an entry level and a level for teachers with some experience. We also strive for balance by grade levels, including equal numbers of sessions for PK-2 and 3-6.

### ***Session Length***

Sessions will be 1 hour and 15 minutes long.

### ***Session components***

Participants will expect **hands-on experiences, preferably outdoors, and an opportunity to reflect** on what is presented. Other elements of a successful presentation are subject integration, journaling, making connections to children's literature, modeling outdoor class management techniques, modeling the 5E Lesson, and modeling inquiry. Proposals for sessions that incorporate hands-on experience, reflection and several of the others will be strongly considered.

### ***Audience***

Approximately 150, made up of primarily elementary and some secondary teachers, principals, counselors, parents and volunteers at schools that currently have a garden or are creating one.

### ***Stipend***

You will receive a \$150 stipend for preparation and \$50 per session presented. \$75 of the stipend for preparation is linked (tied, connected) to attendance at the presenters' meeting. Co-presenters are invited to share the stipend. There is no registration fee, however, travel and lodging, if necessary, are at your expense.

We warmly invite you to submit a proposal for a session at the REAL School Gardens conference on August 6, 2009. Information you complete on the following form will be included in the brochure. Please type directly into this form using Microsoft Word, save and email back to Pat Dorraj at [pdorraj@brit.org](mailto:pdorraj@brit.org). **This completed form must be received by March 13, 2009.**

**Thank you for your participation. You are the question and the answer.**

**Presenter Information**

*(If more than one person is presenting your session, please have each person complete this page.)*

First Name	MI	Last Name	
Job Title	Subject(s) You Teach		Grade Level You Teach
Organization			
Summer Mailing Address			
City	State		Zip Code
Business Phone		Cell Phone	
Home Phone		Fax	
Email Address			

Please provide a 2-3 sentence biography to be published in the brochure for participants.

**Presentation Information**

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a creative 50-word description of your presentation to be published in the brochure for participants.

**Appropriate Grade Levels:** PK-2 3-6 All (Mark one)

**Tier:** Level 1 (beginners) Level 2 (more advanced) (Mark one)

**Strand your session connects to:**

**Presentation Goal:** What is the most important learning outcome of your session? How will this session benefit those who attend and the students they impact?

**Please describe how your session correlates with the theme “Question the System”, specifically addressing the strand to which your session connects.**

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**Please list the key concepts, appropriate grade level(s), and national standards or TEKS and TAKS addressed in your presentation.**

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**Clearly describe how your session will actively engage the participants and what outdoor activity will they experience.**

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**What type of space will you need?**

Classroom  Outdoor space  
 Both

**What type of classroom set-up do you prefer? (check all that apply)**

Desks in rows  Desks in groups of 4  
 Extra tables for stations; #   
 Table at front for presenter

**# of times you wish to present your session:**

2 3 4 (Mark one)

**# of participants per session:**

Maximum \_\_\_\_\_ Minimum \_\_\_\_\_

**Would you consider presenting your session at both the August 2009 and the January 2010 PD days?** YES NO

**Would you consider presenting at a Dallas PD day this summer?** YES NO

**Please place a check by the equipment you will need:**

Overhead projector  
 VCR and TV  
 LCD projector (limited quantity available)  
 Dry erase board/chalkboard  
 Flip chart and markers  
 Other

**Please list up to 3 items for the Resource Store that you are using in your session or that go directly with your session that we could make available for sale to the teachers (literature connection, field guide, scientific tool, seeds, etc...). List in order of preference with #1 being the most desired:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

***Presentation proposal forms must be received by March 13, 2009.***

***Please direct any questions and completed forms to:***

- **Pat Dorraj**
- **Botanical Research Institute of Texas**
- **[pdorraj@brit.org](mailto:pdorraj@brit.org)**
- **817-332-4441, ext. 236**
- **FAX: 817-332-4112**



This REAL School Gardens professional development is supported by the RSG Professional Development Leadership Team, the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT) and the ACORNS Advisory Board.

