

# MEADOWSCAPING FOR BIODIVERSITY

Empowering Youth to Heal the Planet

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## Empowering Youth to Heal the Planet through Nature-based Solutions

### **APPLICATION package: MS4B High School Student Opportunities - May 11-August 20, 2021**

The Youth Environmental Entrepreneurial Program (YEPP) is an experiential, summer-time environmental enrichment program designed to empower teens, ages 15 – 19, to act positively for the environment and themselves. Teams of high school students, guided by college mentors, will learn about business, biodiversity, environmental justice, and climate change. They will then build a service business where they sell native plants and install native-plant gardens for property owners—residents, businesses, and city — within their community. This year we are offering the program to youth in Belmont, Cambridge, Newton, Waltham, Watertown, and Arlington.

YEPP gives youth the opportunity to: “Learn. Earn and Return.” Students **learn** real-world applications for school subjects; they **earn** an hourly wage while learning and working; and they **return** biodiversity and good stewardship practices to the Earth.

YEPP addresses two timely needs affecting many communities. The first is a critical socio-economic need to provide youth a summer job where they: 1) earn an hourly wage so they have income and contribute to family income, and 2) develop skills and experience they can use to get jobs and to advance their personal, academic, and career directions. The second is a serious environmental issue affecting all society: how to restore vital biodiversity (essential to all life on this planet) and wildlife habitat in our communities where development has far outpaced preservation of open space, and pesticides and climate change contribute to species decline.

Youth learn “intentional gardening” with native plants--how to build functional, ecosystems landscapes that do more than look pretty. This program offers students, mentors, funders, and customers a way to take positive action in their own backyards. Students also gain communication tools to encourage others to understand the value of functional gardening. As a result, students gain hope about the environment and the future.

To make a more positive impact this year, we are adding a new component to support participants in their career development. In April and May, students will meet (via ZOOM) with professionals of color who represent a range of careers in environmental science, business, entrepreneurship, and advocacy. Guest speakers share their experiences in carving their career paths and addressing societal issues while inspiring and mentoring the youth as they explore new career areas and begin to set up their specialty native plant sales and service business.

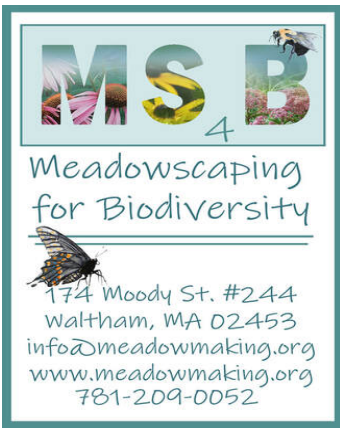
### **Schedule and salary rate:**

**Spring: 5 hours/week for five weeks @ \$13.50/hr.**

Training (ZOOM sessions and some in-person, on-site sessions): – May 11 - June 10 - Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. 5 hrs. including breaks.

**Summer: Up to 20 hours/week for 10 weeks @ \$13.50/hr.**

Implementation (outdoors unless rain or heat waves): June 14 - August 20 – specific days each week to be determined later.



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**May 11, 2021-August 20, 2021**

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICANT INFORMATION:** (Please print neatly)

FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ MI: \_\_\_\_\_ LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Applicant email \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Best times to reach you? \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

**ACADEMIC REFERENCE:**

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 SCHOOL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION:**

FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ MI: \_\_\_\_\_ LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternative Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Relationship to Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

I GIVE MY PERMISSION FOR \_\_\_\_\_ TO WORK WITH MEADOWSCAPING FOR BIODIVERSITY OUTDOORS AND INDOORS ON WHATEVER WORK IS ASSIGNED.

Physician contact information: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

✓PARENT/GUARDIAN

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**OFFICE USE**

**DATE RECEIVED** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE RESPONSE SENT** \_\_\_\_\_ **Accepted: YES** \_\_\_\_\_ **NO** \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTES**



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Application Checklist - please ensure your application is complete

- Cover letter attached. Students, please describe your interests, courses, accomplishments, and the reasons you would like to work with us.
- Resumé attached.
- Signed Letter of reference attached from science teacher
- Work permit if under age 18

Application Permissions – Parents/Guardians, please initial online for each item.

**My child has no medical conditions or allergies to poison ivy, bees, or grass that would prevent themselves from enjoying working outdoors.**

I understand that my child will be working outdoors removing lawn, planting flowers, cleaning up after each day.

I understand that my child will conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all times. If my child doesn't follow the rules (putting cell phones away, paying attention, showing enthusiasm for subject matter, respect for speakers, etc.), then we will issue a warning to students. Depending on the behavior, we will need to speak to parents/guardians. After three warnings, the student will be dismissed from the program.

We will give students one or more breaks during each hour-long segment One break will be to go outside.

I understand that safety (students' and staff safety) will be MS4B's first consideration and that leaders will receive safety training from appropriate staff.

When outdoors, my child will wear appropriate clothing for the weather as defined here: socks, shoes (no sandals), pants, t-shirt, sweater, jeans, shorts (but no short shorts), sunhat or baseball cap. Bring water container and lunch. We will provide sun protection.

I give permission to MS4B to publish my child's writings or drawings in their publications and in magazines and on the Internet.

I give permission to MS4B to publish photos of my child in publications, on MS4B's website, and on the Internet. I understand that I will receive copies of everything.

Please send a copy of press releases and photos to my hometown newspaper:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICANT

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

