



Wisconsin Association for
Home & Community Education

Leadership Institute 2005

Growing a Green Thumb in Leadership

Objective:

Participants will learn volunteer leadership needs.

Skit Needs: Two individuals to play the parts of Store Owner and HCE Member/Gardner
Gardening attire and props (water can, plants, flower pots, etc.)
Paper flower petals, green pipe cleaners, glue if necessary

Setting: Sunny Garden/Nursery store anywhere in Wisconsin!

Opening: Store owner is watering their plants. HCE member comes into the store

HCE Gardener to Plant Store Owner: "HI (name), How are you today?"

Store Owner: "I'm doing fine. What are you up to today? I suppose you are working on another one of those great HCE projects. Do you need some plants?"

HCE Gardener: "Well, yes I am and I do!" "What do you have?" "I am looking for something to work with for a while and have it grow into a great plant in time." "You know, as I think about your questions you asked when I came in, Gardening and HCE have a lot in common."

Store Owner: "How's that?" "I know a lot about gardening, it takes plants, moisture, dirt, sunshine and a green thumb!" (Hold up thumb that has a green paper tube over it) But how does that fit with HCE?"

HCE Gardener: " Well, with gardening, you are finding those plants and seeds you want to plant, then find good soil that they can grow in and from that you water, care, prune, weed, so the plant has the right conditions to grow in. It takes the gardener's care to foster the plant to grow. In HCE, we are growing leaders. Growing leaders is much the same as gardening, as individuals are encouraged to become involved and lead within the organization, but in order for this to happen, HCE has to provide for the members needs to help them grow into leaders and leadership positions."

(Flower pots can be used with dowels that have the words “Fostering”, Encouraging, Support, Cultivate and Celebrate” on them and stuck in the flower pots, like a seed packet on a stake)

“HCE members need to become gardeners in doing that, they can grow leaders by:

Fostering growth through mentoring members.

Encouraging new members/leaders by working side by side on projects, committees.

Support members through meaningful activities, clear expectations and the most important: feedback on a job well done! Kind of like one part sunshine, one part rain and one part dirt!

Cultivate the volunteer spirit that is so passionate in the WAHCE organization. How Do members grow roots to feel comfortable to branch out in their abilities?

Celebrate and appreciate all the reasons for a member’s volunteering in HCE. Smelling the fragrance of the flowers!

Store Owner: “Wow!”, “I think you have something there and I understand now!”
“You know, when you came in here, you said you were working on an HCE Project, but you never told me what it was.”

HCE Gardener: “Well, yes, I am getting ready for our club’s annual picnic where we elect Officers and welcome new members.”

Store Owner: “Are you going to be an HCE Gardener with a Green thumb in Leadership at your picnic? ”

HCE Gardener: “I sure am, as that was how I got involved, because someone in the Organization encouraged me and was there for me.”
“Now, you said you had some new plants, where are they?”

Store Owner: “They are right over here and are just waiting for someone like you to work with them.”

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