

Gardening

Merit Badge Pre-Work

Merit Badge College @ LRCC
By: Allana Rose



- **Pre-Work must be completed before attending the event.**
- **There will also be post-work after the event to include harvesting vegetables, watching flowers bloom and planting a small garden at home.**

Prior to coming to the event, please visit your county extension agent's office, local university, agricultural college, nursery, farm, botanical garden or arboretum. Take some notes on what you learned. We will discuss this at the event.

- Test 100 seeds for germination.
 - You can buy 1 packet that has enough seeds, or multiple packets of various plants. Make sure you label which seeds are where and when you planted them. Keep the packet to see how many days it should take to germinate. Include how many days it should germinate and how many days your seeds took in your data.
 - Determine the percentage of seeds that germinate. If you chose to do multiple packets, please determine the percentage for each packet. If you used any leftover seeds from a year or two prior, please include that with your data.
 - Explain why you think some of your seeds did not germinate.
- Identify 5 garden pests and write them down. We will talk about them together when we meet.

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- Identify 3 career opportunities that would use skills and knowledge in gardening.
 - Pick one of them and research the training, education, certification requirements, experience and expenses associated with entering the field.
 - Research the prospects for employment, starting salary, advancement opportunities and career goals associated with this career.

Post-Work:

- Grow a garden of your own using soil, seeds or seedlings, to harvest or for 90 days, whichever is earlier. This can be an outdoor garden or indoors using appropriate containers, and should include at least three types of plants.
- Observe the items we will sow from seed at the event. There will be vegetables that you will need to see through to harvest, and flowering plants you will need to watch until they bloom. You can use these in your garden.
 - There will also be seedlings, please use these in your garden as well. You can compare how the seeds grew compared to the seedlings you will get.