

Getting Rooted in Gardening

Informed Consent Form

You are invited to be part of a research study being conducted by Derrick Stowell and Whitney Hale at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. You are being invited because you have participated in Getting Rooted in Gardening. Being in this research study is voluntary, and you should only agree if you completely understand the study and want to volunteer to allow your information to be used. This form contains information that will help you decide if you want to be part of this research study or not. Please take the time to read it carefully, and if there is anything you don't understand, please ask questions.

Purpose

Getting Rooted in Gardening is a project funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's Food and Agriculture Service-Learning Program.

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness of interactive garden education in increasing students' knowledge of gardening, plant science, nutrition, and food systems, and improving students' ability to meet Tennessee state standards for math and science. We plan to share results of this project with the USDA/NIFA, and publish a journal article about the school program portion of this project.

Participation

If you choose to participate, we will analyze the following tasks that you will be completing as part of your normal employee related tasks:

- As part of this project, you will take part in entrance and exit interviews to assess your goals for working with the UT Gardens and what learned by working for UT Gardens and the Getting Rooted in Gardening project.
- You will participate in weekly check-ins, complete a project and present the results of the project to UT Gardens staff, and write a social media post on a career related to agriculture.
- Additionally, you will be asked to complete horticultural tasks in the Kitchen Garden along with your other position duties.
- Photographs or videos may be recorded of your child as part of the project. These photographs and videos may be used on social media posts about the Getting Rooted in Gardening program (see separate image permission at the bottom of this form.)

Benefit

We do not expect you to benefit from being in this study. Your participation may help us to learn more about the impact of the Getting Rooted in Gardening program. We hope the knowledge gained from this study will benefit others in the future.

Risks

As a staff member for this project, photos may be taken of you and you will be making videos, educational materials, and social media posts as part of the project. This information will not be connected to your entrance/exit interviews or the analyzed data of this study.

It is possible that someone could find out you were in this study or see your study information, but we believe this risk is small because of the procedures we use to protect your information. These procedures are described later in this form.

We don't know of any additional risks to you from being in the study.

Confidentiality

If you agree to allow your information to be used in the research, we will assign you a code number use that instead of your name on all of the materials before we begin analyzing them for the research study. These materials will be stored the lead researcher's locked file cabinet in his locked office. No information which could identify you will be shared in publications and presentations about this study.

Future Research

Your information will not be used or shared with other researchers for future research, even if identifiers are removed.

Contact Information

If you have any questions about this research, please contact me, Derrick Stowell, at dstowell@utk.edu or 865-974-715. If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, please contact the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, at utkirb@utk.edu or 865-974-7697. You may also contact the IRB with any problems, complaints or concerns you have about a research study.

Voluntary Participation

It is completely up to you to decide to be in this research study. Even if you decide to be part of the study now, you may change your mind at any time by notifying me in person or by email that you wish to discontinue being involved in the study. You will not lose any services, benefits, or rights you would normally have if you choose not to volunteer, or if you change your mind and stop being in the study later. If you do not wish to be in the research, it is not necessary to do anything, as we cannot use your materials without your consent.

Consent

I have read the above information. I have received a copy of this form. I understand that my participation in this research study includes allowing Derrick Stowell and Whitney Hale to use my information for research purposes. I agree to be included in this study.

Participant's Name (printed) _____

Participant's Signature _____ Date _____

Consent for use of images

I agree that photographs/video recordings of me from name Getting Rooted in Gardening may be used in reporting results or presentations and publications.

Participant's Signature _____ Date _____