

# Spring 2017 Carton 2 Garden Contest

# CARTON 2 GARDEN

Helping grow school garden programs

# About Evergreen Packaging



# About KidsGardening.org



# Webinar Agenda

- 5 min – Introduction
- 5 min - Contest Overview
- 15 min – Inspiration from Past Winners
- 20 min – Indoor Gardening Tips
- 5 min – Contest Entry Tips
- 10 min - Q&A
  
- Questions: At any time during the webinar, feel free to put your questions into the chat box and we will answer during Q&A
  
- Technical Support: Andrea Warren  
[andreaw@kidsgardening.org](mailto:andreaw@kidsgardening.org)

# Introducing: Sarah Ponders

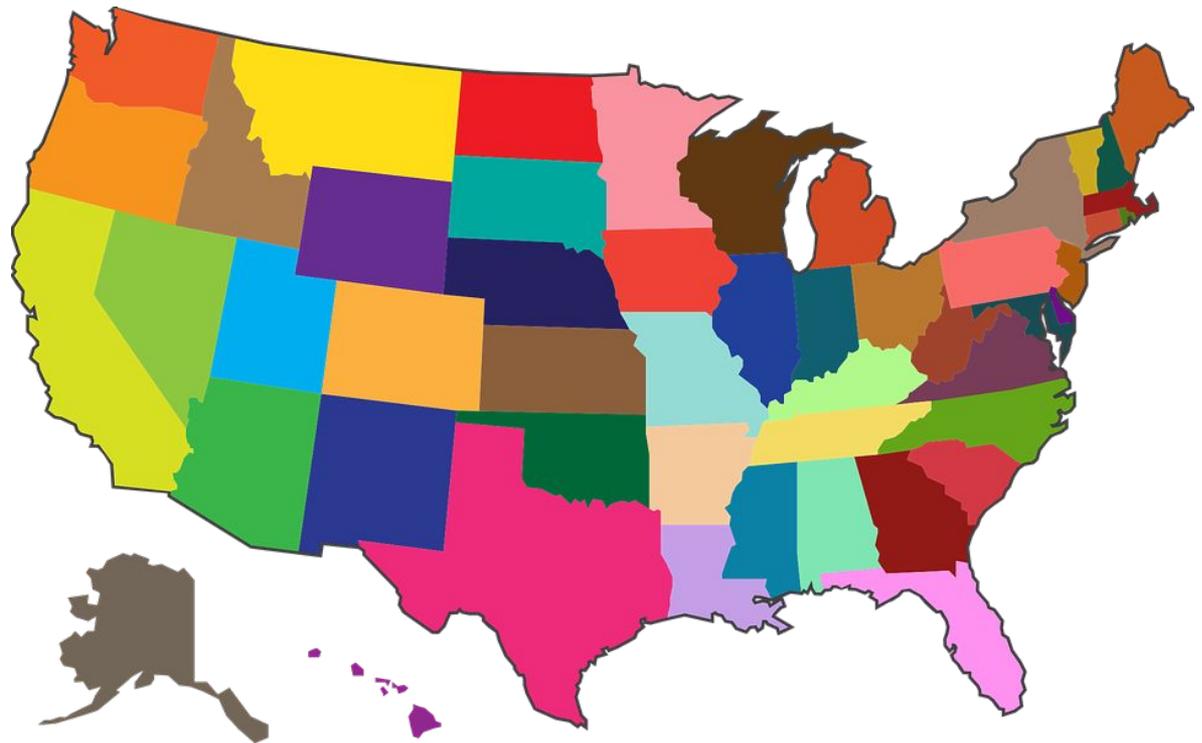
Sarah Ponders has been active in the field of youth gardening for over 20 years and has been an Education Specialist at KidsGardening.org since 2005. She has coordinated numerous children's gardening programs, developed garden-based curricula and activities for youth of all ages and conducted teacher training sessions on integrating gardens into the classroom. Sarah also enjoys gardening at home with her two young children and serves as the volunteer garden coordinator at her daughter's elementary school.



# Audience Poll

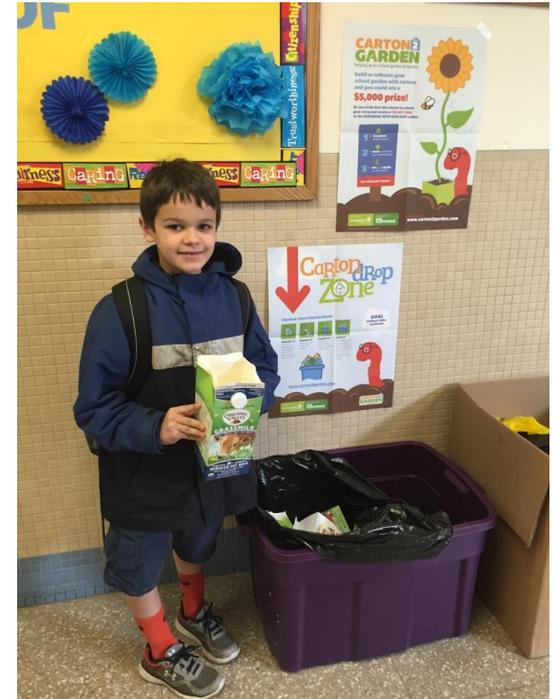
**Please tell us in what area of the country you are located:**

- Northeast
- Midwest
- Southeast
- Southwest
- Northwest



# Win Up to \$5,000 for Your School Garden Program!

1. Save empty milk and juice cartons
2. Creatively re-purpose cartons to build or enhance your school garden program while engaging students in hands-on activities fostering environmental stewardship and healthy living
3. Capture the results of your efforts and complete the entry form by April 12, 2017



# Who Can Apply?

- Schools in the United States teaching grades Pre-K to 12
- Any public, private, or charter school in the United States may enter the contest
- Students should be involved in every aspect of the project, but the application must be completed and submitted by an adult at least 18 years of age



# Program Requirements

- Collect and use a minimum of 100 cartons in project. Supporting materials may be used, but should comprise a small percentage of the final creation
- Complete the online entry form and submit up to 10 photos
- To be eligible for grand prize and specialty prizes, must also submit a video (under 5 minutes)
- Entries must include photo release forms for students in photos and/or video

# 2017 Prize Categories

## GRAND PRIZE

 **\$5,000**

## SPECIALTY PRIZES



### STEM

Best use of science, technology, engineering, and math lessons in your project

**\$2,500**



### Sustainability

Best demonstration of sustainable practices in your garden creation

**\$2,500**



### Health and Nutrition

Best incorporation of lessons on wellness.

**\$2,500**

## ELEMENTARY PRIZES



**5 x \$1,000**

## MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL PRIZES



**5 x \$1,000**

**Ten additional lucky entries will have the chance to win a \$50 gift card to the 'Gardener's Supply Shop'.**

# Inspiration: Champion Theme Middle School

- 2016 Grand Prize Winner
- Completed a series of mini projects including:
  - Planted seeds in cartons to donate to local community garden
  - Planted kale for students to take home after sampling kale smoothies
  - Developed and delivered presentations on recycling, plants and habitats to elementary school students



# Tips for a Successful Program from Champion Theme Middle School

- Student-led initiative
- Involved all students and the local community
- Addressed all specialty interest areas
- Documented each step in their journey throughout the year
- Enthusiasm evident in entry and video



# Inspiration: Davis Bilingual Magnet School

- 2016 Sustainability Winner
- Built a shade house by weaving cartons on a base of PVC pipe
- Experimented with growing plants in shade versus full sun



# Tips for a Successful Program from Davis Bilingual Magnet School

- Student inspired project
- Built a structure that served a functional purpose in the garden
- Excellent video describing the process and providing feedback from students



# Inspiration: Kumeyaay Elementary School

- 2016 STEM Winner
- Created a portable wicking garden
- Studied drought tolerant plants and learned about different water saving techniques
- Traditionally grown lettuce takes 15 gallons of water to grow 1 lb of lettuce
- Students grew an organic microgreen salad in 9 days for the entire school (453 students) – and only used 4.5 gallons of water



# Tips for a Successful Program from Kumeyaay Elementary School

- Student led project
- Used science, technology, engineering and math principals to design and conduct garden-based experiment
- Practical application



# Inspiration: Tamaques Elementary School

- 2016 Community Involvement Winner
- Created a 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Kindness Buddies Program
- Hope Grows Program connected butterfly garden to study of the Holocaust and plant/animal life cycles
- Cartons used to create poetry, connect to historical events, and involve community members



# Tips for a Successful Program from Tamaques Elementary School

- Significant student involvement
- Carton project part of a bigger program that involved all areas of the school's curriculum



# Additional STEM Ideas from 2016 Winners

- Use cartons to create living manipulatives to teach math and science through 10 frames
- Use cartons to study storm water runoff
- Use cartons to create rain water capturing and irrigation systems



# Additional Sustainability Ideas from 2016 Winners

- Use cartons to lead a Waste Free Lunch Initiative and build an insulated worm compost bin
- Use cartons to build a raised bed from reclaimed materials
- Use cartons to educate students and school neighbors about sustainable practices



# Additional Health and Nutrition Ideas from 2016 Winners

- Use cartons to grow seedlings to share with families and community members
- Use cartons to grow plants to use in cooking demonstrations
- Use cartons to allow students to express themselves and establish the garden as a place of healing and inspiration



# Indoor Gardening Tips

- Many C2G projects begin with indoor gardens
- Extend your growing season



# Introducing: Charlie Nardozzi

Charlie Nardozzi is a nationally recognized garden writer, speaker, and radio and television personality. He has worked for more than 25 years bringing expert gardening information to home gardeners. Charlie delights in making gardening information simple, easy, fun and accessible to everyone. His energy, exuberance, and love of the natural world make him a popular public speaker and presenter.



# Types of Indoor Gardens

- Pre-fabricated grow lights and DIY grow lights
  - Control light, temperature and humidity
  - Increase plant options
- Windowsill gardens
  - Most light from windows facing south and west
  - Cooler temperatures
  - Choose low light plants like greens or houseplants



# Indoor Garden Considerations

- Supplies
- Water
- Heat
- Light
- Fertilizer



# Supplies

- Containers (remember drainage holes)
- Well draining soilless potting mix
- Trays to catch run off
- Optional:
  - Moisture grids
  - Timer
  - Humidity tents
  - Spray bottles



# Water

- Plant in moist soil
- Consistent moisture important
- Spray bottles useful
- Self-watering trays



# Heat

- Temperature needs vary but 60 to 80 degrees optimal for germination of most seeds
- Heating mats
- Check on night and weekend temperature settings
- Cool temperatures will slow growth



# Light

- Quality: fluorescent - cool, warm and full spectrum
- Intensity: bulb number and height
- Duration: 14 to 16 hours a day
- Automatic timers helpful



# Nutrients

- Some potting mixes will include nutrients
- Water-soluble liquid fertilizers
- Organic fertilizers

# Common Problems

- Fungus gnats
- Bacterial and fungal leaf and soil issues
- Proper watering key
- Begin with clean soil
- Begin with pest-free plants



# Plant Suggestions

- Greens/microgreens
- Beans
- Root crops
- Herbs
- Indoor tropical plants



# Writing Tips for the Entry Form

- Remember the C's:
  - Clear, concise, creative, compelling, follows the criteria
- Answer questions in word document before filling out entry form
- Find someone to proofread
- Complete all requirements

# Does Your Project Match the Goals of the Carton 2 Garden Program?

- Teach students about:
  - Healthy consumption
  - The eco-friendly benefits of cartons
  - Recycling practices
- Promote life skills such as:
  - Creativity
  - Leadership
  - Teamwork
- Support the implementation of lessons and activities related to:
  - STEM
  - Sustainability
  - Health and Nutrition



# Tips for Video

- 5 minutes or less
- Chance to make your project come alive
- Interviews with students or teachers are very engaging
- Additional video tips and instructions available to download as a pdf file

# Questions?

[Http://carton2garden.com/](http://carton2garden.com/)



# Thank You for Attending

- For more information, visit:

[Carton2garden.com](http://Carton2garden.com)

[Evergreenpackaging.com](http://Evergreenpackaging.com)

[Kidsgardening.org](http://Kidsgardening.org)

[Kidsgardening.org/2017-carton-2-garden-webinar/](http://Kidsgardening.org/2017-carton-2-garden-webinar/)

Additional questions? [sarahp@kidsgardening.org](mailto:sarahp@kidsgardening.org)