Promoting and supporting educational gardens for youth
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School Garden Caretakers Grant 2025 Winners!

Augusta, Maine: The Maine School Garden Network is happy to report they received over 35 applications for the 2025 School Garden Caretaker Grants! The Review Committee met in early September and selected the following five (5) winners.

Drum roll please! And the 2025 School Garden Caretaker winners are…

- *Lindsey Schortz, Belfast Community Outreach Program in Education*
- *Vaughn Martin, Caribou Community School*
- *Jeff Chase, Maine Academy of Natural Science*
- *Nathanial Liddle, North Haven Community School*
- *Gray Albani, Seedlings to Sunflowers Non-Profit Childcare and Family Center*

Applications were reviewed based on meeting the following grant criteria:

- a school garden program (of any size, capacity, involvement level)
- a new or updated registry listing in the MSGN Garden Directory.
- documented support by a school colleague for the School Garden program.
- a person who is currently or able to be the School Garden Caretaker.
- The 2025 Garden Caretakers must submit a final grant report for use at the MSGN 2026 Annual Meeting.

Caretaker applications could either be nominated by an applicant or submitted by the caretaker and included the following questions:

- Describe your school garden? What is your role?
- How do students participate in your school garden? How many students do you impact?
- What are your financial needs for your school garden?
- Share examples of community support for your project such as community connections, volunteers and school/administrative support.
- What is your involvement with MSGN to date?
- Anything else you would like us to know?

Applications for 2026 School Garden Caretaker Grants will open in the summer and be due August 30th, 2026.

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