

## Junior Master Gardener (JMG)

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the 1<sup>st</sup> JMG meeting of the new club year, on August 4, 2010 @ 9:00 a.m. at the Jon Archer Agriculture Center.

We have just completed a very successful JMG 1<sup>st</sup> year and are gearing up for a new year. The August 4, 2010 meeting is a very important meeting to attend. We will be discussing officer and officer election, as well as planning our upcoming year. Invite a friend to join us. The JMG club is open to all youth ages 9-18 years old.

The Greater Gulf State Fair coming up in October offers the opportunity to enter an exhibit and earn some money for our club. We have to get busy fast getting that display planned.

There is work to do in the garden. We will be choosing what to plant and learning more about crop rotation.

**Exciting opportunity awaits you. I look forward to seeing you and your friends on August 4, 2010 @ 9:00 a.m. at the Jon Archer Agriculture Center.**

### JMG OVERVIEW:

Gardening is one of America's favorite pastimes. Grandparents, mothers, fathers and youth can participate in this creative, constructive activity to produce more than just beautiful flowers. Gardening gives people of all ages a place to play, experiment and enjoy the "fruits" of their labors. Growing fruits and vegetables in a home or community garden also provides an environment where health, nutrition, food safety and wise decision-making skills can be taught. Research shows that children will eat the food they grow.

JMG'S GOAL: To encourage 4-H'ers and volunteers to get their hands in the dirt, get involved and garden for better health and nutrition.

JMG's objectives are to offer experiences where children are encouraged to:

- Participate in plant selection
- Learn about crop rotation
- Prepare gardening plots
- Plant, maintain, harvest, prepare and eat
- Sample new foods and adopt the practice of eating new and different fruits and vegetables from their garden.

JMG requires a time commitment from 4-H'ers and volunteers. The garden is an ongoing project.