



Katie's Krops Grower Application for the 2020 Growing Season

Empowering Youth to End Hunger One Vegetable Garden at a Time

Katie's Krops is seeking passionate, responsible youth, ages 9 to 16, who want to help end hunger in their community by starting a vegetable garden where the whole harvest is donated to feed people in need in their community.

The mission of Katie's Krops is to empower youth to start and maintain vegetable gardens of all sizes and to donate the harvest to help feed people in need, as well as to assist and inspire others to do the same.

Youth selected as Katie's Krops Growers will be awarded a gift card to a garden center in their area (up to \$500 for the first year), support from the Katie's Krops team, will have access to the private Katie's Krops Grower reporting website and growing manual, are eligible to win a scholarship for their higher education, and so much more! These are just a few of the perks of being part of the Katie's Krops growing family.

Applicants must be between the ages of 9 and 16 as of **December 31, 2019**. All applications must be filled out completely including questions listed, postmarked by **December 27, 2019**, and signed by a *parent or legal guardian*.

PLEASE NOTE:

This application must be completed by the youth applicant listed. Application completed by an adult will not be considered. If there are extenuating circumstance that the application cannot be completed by the youth applicant please contact Stacy@KatiesKrops.com

Katie's Krops does **not** offer garden grants. By completing this application, you are applying to become a Katie's Krops Grower. You will be joining the ranks of hundreds of kids across the country who are growing a healthy end to hunger, one vegetable garden at a time. **We are looking for long-term Growers, kids who want to grow a vegetable garden for years, not just one season.** We will not honor applications from youth who want to start a garden just to win an award or earn badge. Katie's Krops is for youth who want to help end hunger in their community.

It is important to note:

ALL Growers must regularly report on their garden on our private Grower website. Reporting consists of recording harvest totals, hours, reports, and photos.

Before starting your application, please note the following:

- We welcome applications from youth who would like to a vegetable garden. The whole harvest must be donated to feed people in need at food pantries, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, cancer centers, directly to families in need, etc. Where you will donate your harvest must be listed on the application. If you choose to list a school as the recipient of the harvest, we

do require a note from the principal of the school explaining why the school is in need and explanation of how the produce will be used during the summer break.

- All applicants must list a primary adult contact.
- Our goal is to create a sustainable solution to hunger; therefore, we are looking for youth who would like to grow their Katie's Krops Garden growing season after growing season, year after year.
- If you are applying on behalf of a group of young growers who wish to start a garden, please designate ONLY ONE youth as the applicant. Do not list multiple youth under the Applicant's Information section. You may list all other members of the group as volunteers under Question 8 in the "Questions for the Applicant" section. If more than one applicant is listed, we will not be able to consider your application.

Applicant's Information (Please print neatly)

This contact information will be the main point of contact for your Katie's Krops Garden and will be used for ALL Katie's Krops correspondence (i.e., phone, mail, and e-mail). Please be sure to list an email address that you check regularly. **Please do NOT use a school email address.** Many school emails bounce back due to filters, and students often do not have access to these email address in summer or when they switch schools.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number with Area Code: _____

Email Address: _____

Age: _____

Please Circle One: Male or Female

Signature of Applicant: _____

Social Media Information

If you are on social media, please provide your username for the following media communities.

Facebook:

Twitter:

Instagram:

Parent or Legal Guardian's Information

The child listed above has my permission to apply to become a Katie's Krops Grower. I fully understand the responsibility that accompanies being a Katie's Krops Grower (starting and maintain a garden, donating harvest and reporting on our private grower website) and, if selected, they will have my full support in starting a garden. I fully understand that Katie's Krops is a youth-based initiative and I will support my child and allow them to lead their efforts to end hunger, take responsibility for growing the garden, reporting on their garden and communicating with Katie's Krops staff members and volunteers.

Parent or legal guardian name: _____

Parent E-Mail Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Are you the primary adult contact for the garden? Please circle one: Yes or No

Parent or legal guardian signature: _____

Primary Adult Contact's Information

If the parent or legal guardian is not the primary adult contact for the garden, please write the name of the Primary Adult Contact (PAC) in this section. This contact information will be included on ALL Katie's Krops correspondence (i.e., mail and e-mail).

Name: _____

Relationship to Youth Applicant: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Signature: _____

If your potential Katie's Krops Garden is to be located at a school or on the property of an organization, please fill out the below Point of Contact (POC) information below. We also require a letter from the organization/school, on their letter head granting permission for you to start a garden on their property. This letter must be included with your application. You do not need a letter if your garden will be planted at a private residence or community garden plot (your home, your grandparent's home, etc.)

School / Organization Name (ex., Boys & Girls Club, School, Church, etc.): _____

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

If your garden is located at a school who will be responsible for maintaining, harvesting, and caring for your Katie's Krops Garden during the Summer months? School gardens MUST be cared for over the summer during peak harvest times. If you cannot care for your school garden over the summer our program is not the right fit. We understand that school gardens are an excellent teaching tool. The primary focus of our program is providing healthy fresh food to families in need. In the majority of the country summer is peak harvest time, therefore the garden must be maintained and harvest during the summer (June, July and August).

Letter of Recommendation

Please include with your application submission a hard copy letter of recommendation from one of your teachers, coaches, pastor, mentors, counselors, etc. Please make sure that all of their contact information is included in the letter and that the letter is written on official letterhead.

Letters of recommendation may **not** be submitted by an immediate family member.

Questions for the Applicant

Please answer all the following questions (1-15) completely on a separate sheet of paper. For each question, each answer should not be longer than 150 words. Please type and number each of your answers.

Helpful hints: one-word answers do not allow us to get to know you. Take time to answer the questions and help us get to know you as a person. Explain why you would be a great Katie's Krops Grower.

- 1.) Why do you want to start a vegetable garden to feed people in need?
- 2.) How would your community benefit from Katie's Krops Garden?
- 3.) Where will you plant your garden? This can be at your home, your school, church, community center, etc. Please feel free to include a photo of where you would like to plant your garden. If you are planning on growing your garden at a school, community center, church, or another organization you **must** include a letter from a representative of the organization on their letterhead granting you permission to start the garden on their property. If the garden is to be located at a school, please also have the letter note that you will have access to the property during the summer.
- 4.) What is the size of the garden you wish to start? Will it be: in the ground, in raised beds, or in planters/pots?
- 5.) If the garden you want to start is not located at your home, how far is the proposed garden from your home? Do you have regular transportation to that location?
- 6.) Is there a water source for the garden (a place that you can attach a hose to or an existing in ground sprinkler system)?
- 7.) Who will help start and maintain your garden?
- 8.) Where will you donate your harvest?

- 9.) Do you have any experience gardening (it is not required)? If you answered yes, please explain.
- 10.) What do you feel are your strengths?
- 11.) If selected how much time do you anticipate spending working in your garden each week over the summer month?
- 12.) What extracurricular activities are you currently involved in throughout the year?
- 13.) Is there anything else you would like to share with us about yourself?
- 14.) Do you have regular access to a computer for reporting?
- 15.) Do you plan on growing your garden for more than one year? If so, for how long?
- 16.) How did you hear about Katie's Krops?

Please print out and mail your signed application, letter of recommendation, and all of your completed answers to:

**Katie's Krops
P.O Box 1841
Summerville, SC 29484**

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY

*****December 27, 2019 *****

We will only accept a mailed hard copy of your application.

We will NOT accept e-mailed applications.

*****A hard copy of your completed and signed application MUST be mailed to Katie's Krops because we need to have original signatures on file (not copies). *****

Additional Information

If you would like to send photos, we would love to see where you will plant your garden, who will help, etc.

If your application is selected as a finalist, we will email you to conduct a phone or skype interview the week of January 15th. All finalists will have 72 hours to respond to the email, or their application will no longer be considered.

Questions & Answers

What are the dates to apply to become a Katie's Krops Grower?

The cycle begins on **October 1, 2019** and ends **December 27, 2019**. The application review process will begin January 2, 2020 and conclude by January 31, 2020. The new Growers will be selected during this time. We truly appreciate early applications.

If I am selected as a new Grower when will I be notified?

Our new Growers will be notified on, or about **February 7, 2020**.

Please note that only applicant selected as new KK Growers will be notified.

When does the Grower's need to start their garden?

The garden must be started in the **Spring of 2020**.

What store will the gift card be for?

Funding will be awarded in the form of a gift card to a garden supply store that is convenient to the KK Growers location. The Katie's Krops Growers will be allowed to select their choice of the store.

How hard is reporting? How long does reporting on my garden take?

Reporting is very easy. We have a private website where you will login and post pictures, harvest totals, service hours, and monthly reports. Reporting should take no more than 15 minutes a week.

If I win, when will I receive my funding and access to the private Katie's Krops Grower website?

After the new Katie's Krops Growers are announced, they will be required to have a Katie's Krops Photo Release signed by their parent/guardian and they will be required to sign a Katie's Krops Growers Agreement. When both agreements have been signed and returned to Katie's Krops, we will begin the process of funding your garden and providing access to the reporting website.

I am a teacher. Can I apply for the grant for my class?

Applicants must be between the ages of 9 and 16. The teacher may be listed as an adult volunteer but **cannot** apply to become a Katie's Krops Grower. The only two exceptions to this rule are:

If the youth applicant has a disability that would prevent them from completing the application and that student will be growing their potential Katie's Krops garden at a school.

or

If the garden is at a location where the identity of the children must be protected. Examples are a home for abused children or an organization that offers behavioral health services for children.

Can a group of youth apply?

If you are applying as a group, ONE child must be selected as the lead Katie's Krops applicant. This lead Katie's Krops Grower will be the applicant for this application, submit all of the necessary paperwork, and will be the main point of contact for your garden. Please do **not** have all members of the group send in separate applications.

What is required of a new Grower?

- 1.) The Katie's Krops Grower will be required to start and maintain a vegetable garden for a minimum of one planting season (we are looking for Growers who will continue their garden for multiple years, not for just one season).
- 2.) The entire harvest from the garden must be donated to people in need. This may be done through direct donations to families in need or by donating the harvest to soup kitchens or organizations that feed the needy.
- 3.) The Katie's Krops Grower will be required to submit photos, harvest weights, and an annual reports on their progress, which may include volunteers who have helped, donations made, and what they have learned from their experience.
- 4.) The Katie's Krops Grower must communicate with the Katie's Krops team and answer emails in a timely fashion.
- 5.) The Katie's Krops Grower and their parent or legal guardians are required to sign a letter agreeing to the above, and they must also submit a photo release form signed by their parent or legal guardian to Katie's Krops by **March 1, 2020**, after they have been notified that they have won.

What if my application is not postmarked by **December 27, 2019**?

Your application **must** be postmarked by **December 27, 2019**, or it will **not** be considered. We will only accept applications sent via the United States Postal Service.

To make the process fair to all who apply, there will be no exceptions.

How will the winner be selected?

The winners will be selected based on their answers on their application. We are looking for responsible youth who will honor their commitment by putting a lot of effort into their garden, and who will regularly report on their efforts. No garden experience is necessary. What is necessary is a good support system of volunteers and a willingness to give back to your community.

If you still have questions regarding the application process, please e-mail your question(s) to Katie@KatiesKrops.com

Application Check List:

- ~ I have fully answered all 15 questions in complete sentences.
- ~ My application explains why I would be a great Katie's Krops Grower.
 - ~ I have completed all information requested on the application.
- ~ My parent/guardian has completed all their information and signed the application.
 - ~ I have included my letter of recommendation.
- ~ I have included a letter from the organization where I want to start my garden (not applicable to home or community gardens).
 - ~ I have included pictures (optional).
- ~ I have mailed my application before December 27, 2019.