



## Youth Farming and Leadership Project Summary

The Sojourner Foundation, Registered Charity #576 will be hosting the “Youth Farming and Leadership Project” (YFLP), a six week educational programme series geared towards youth aged 11 to 29. We will be focused on engaging young people in the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) programming through sustainable agriculture, natural living, cooperative economics, arts and craft and lots of exciting activities. We will expose young people to innovative and sustainable techniques and practices to positively harness their talents and empower them to become leaders in their respective communities.

Working with trained, knowledgeable educators and youth mentors, we will promote the importance of food security and having a strong food production system that enables us to feed our community healthy food, while preserving our environment. We will be based on our 5-acre property, Kamp Deed, in Turners Hall, St. Andrew and J&P Farms in Neil’s Plantation in St Michael. These are both countryside locations that will encourage the young people to think creatively and draw on their resourcefulness to solve problems. Students will engage in hands on learning and service activities on these properties.

YFLP is rooted in our desire to help to develop the identity and purpose of each student. The programme will look at their social, emotional and technical skills development, while we encourage them to find their voices and be capable of initiating and leading positive actions. We will offer the youth agency and ownership of the programme as we emphasise the importance of activism, respect and the protection of our planet. The following are the philosophical underpinnings of our programme:

- ❖ Youth empowerment
- ❖ Leadership development
- ❖ Sustainability and environmental justice
- ❖ Social entrepreneurship
- ❖ Cultural awareness
- ❖ Connectivity

**Objectives:** We intend to instill a sense of self respect and confidence in our students and help them to be more invested in their own ongoing self development. We will help them to unlock their creativity, compassion and critical thinking skills. We expect that by pursuing the following objectives, the youth will become change agents within their communities and within the nation as a whole:

- ❖ Discipline
- ❖ Pro-social behaviour
- ❖ Social and emotional development
- ❖ Unlocking creativity
- ❖ Critical thinking and problem solving
- ❖ Patience and process

We have included an element from the STEAM curriculum in the themes for each week of the project and we will include activities and field trips that will help to further illustrate the various themes. We will include team building exercises and we will provide the youth with several opportunities for creative expression, such as role play, skits, music and creative writing. The following table provides an overview of the activities that we will be undertaking to engage the youth.

THEMES	EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES
Science and the Environment; Social Science	Organic farming, permaculture, food systems, planting 6-week crops, history of agriculture
Technology in Agriculture	Creating photo and video documentaries, working with technology to address climate change and pest management, e.g. solar energy
Engineering and Natural Building	Building clay ovens, working with bamboo
Arts – Culinary Arts; Creative Arts	Culinary arts, drama, creative writing, music, visual arts
Mathematics and Economics	Bookkeeping 101, collective economics, understanding vertical integration in business and profit dynamics
Market Day and Expo	Sale of produce and products at The Green Market; exhibition of activities; closing ceremony – awarding certificates of participation