



RESOURCES

TITLE | PROGRAM FEEDBACK & EVALUATION

CATEGORY | Garden Educator Management & Coaching

OVERVIEW | This document outlines two surveys that Education Outside used to collect feedback from garden educators and classroom teachers.

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What this resource is:

This resource outlines two surveys that Education Outside used to collect feedback and improve programming over time. One was written to collect feedback from garden educators, and the other was written to collect feedback from school teachers. Both were administered using SurveyMonkey, though other services such as Google Forms can be used as well. These surveys are described briefly here, and the lists of questions included in each survey are outlined in the sections below.

- **Garden Educator Support Survey:** This survey was administered 2-3 times per year to all Education Outside garden educators. The survey included five parts: curriculum, training, program manager support, communications and resources, and community. These were areas of focus for Education Outside as we constantly sought to improve these critical parts of our program. Garden educators had the option of responding anonymously, but we requested their cohort year (1st year or 2nd year) in order to parse the data and better understand the experience of educators in each cohort. Education Outside highly valued feedback from garden educators, seeking to get better, smarter, and more effective across all aspects of our program. We acted quickly to incorporate suggestions for improvement and stored data from each survey in order to compare results from quarter to quarter and year to year, assessing program changes over time.

- **Classroom Teacher Survey:** This survey was administered twice per year to classroom teachers whose students attended classes with the school's garden educator. The data were used for four things. First, they provided garden educators with direct feedback from teachers who saw them teach more regularly than program managers and often had suggestions for collaboration. Second, the survey provided program managers with additional information to incorporate into the garden educator's mid and end of year reviews. Third, the survey provided the Education Outside program team with a high-level readout of strengths and areas of improvement across the garden educator cohorts. This information was useful in determining how to best support garden educators through full group training sessions. Finally, the survey provided a "net promoter score" that was used as a quick readout of levels of satisfaction with Education Outside programming across schools.

Why this resource was created:

Education Outside created these surveys in order to assess its programming and incorporate suggestions from garden educators and classroom teachers. The surveys are summarized here to provide a resource for other School Garden Support Organizations to evaluate their own programming.



How to use this resource:

We suggest reading through the questions in each of the surveys to pick and choose those that are most relevant to your program. Most of the questions in these Education Outside surveys had multiple choice answer formats, though some were open-ended. The answer formats are not included in this resource because the appropriate choices and formats will vary from program to program. We suggest using the questions as a starting point and incorporating the answer format that you think appropriate. It may be helpful to read through *Education Outside Support Systems for Garden Educators*, prior to reading the questions in the Garden Educator Support Survey as this will provide more context for the questions. As mentioned above, we used SurveyMonkey to administer these surveys, though other services can also be used for administration.

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Garden Educator Support Survey:

Curriculum

1. When lesson planning, how frequently do you use the Education Outside curriculum?
2. Which kindergarten units have you taught during the current school year?
3. Which 1st grade units have you taught during the current school year?
4. Which 2nd grade units have you taught during the current school year?
5. Which 3rd grade units have you taught during the current school year?
6. Which 4th grade units have you taught during the current school year?
7. Which 5th grade units have you taught during the current school year?
8. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following: The Education Outside curriculum is easy to use.
9. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following: The organization of the Education Outside curriculum is clear to me.
10. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following: I consistently experience success teaching the K-3 lessons in the Education Outside curriculum.
11. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following: I consistently experience success teaching the 4-5 lessons in the Education Outside curriculum.
12. What do you find most helpful or useful about the Education Outside curriculum?
13. If you could make one change to the curriculum, what would it be?
14. Please list any useful non-Education Outside curriculum resources from which you've taught this school year, and that you'd recommend.

Professional Development (Training)

1. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following: Learning & Teaching Outdoors trainings help me become a successful garden educator.
2. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following: Outdoor Classroom Design trainings teach me the skills needed to develop the outdoor classroom at my school site.
3. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following: Leadership for Community Engagement trainings have felt relevant to my success as a young professional and teach me the skills needed to build community at my school site.
4. (*"Retrospective Pre" Question*) Rate your proficiency in each strand of professional development at the beginning of the school year: Learning & Teaching Outdoors, Outdoor Classroom Design, Leadership for Community Engagement.
5. Rate your proficiency in each strand of professional development currently: Learning & Teaching Outdoors, Outdoor Classroom Design, Leadership for Community Engagement.
6. What about the current professional development program have you found most valuable?
7. If you could make one change to the professional development program, what would it be?
8. Please share anything else you would like us to know about your professional development experience below.

Communications & Resources

1. How helpful is the Education Outside Curriculum in supporting your teaching?
2. How helpful are the Learning & Teaching Outdoors electronic resources in supporting your teaching?
3. How helpful are the Outdoor Classroom Design electronic resources in supporting your efforts to improve your site?
4. How helpful are the Leadership for Community Engagement electronic resources in supporting you and your school community?
5. How helpful is the weekly newsletter in supporting the service you perform at your school?

6. How helpful is the garden educator resource binder in supporting the service you perform at your school?
7. How helpful is the shared Garden Educator Google Calendar in supporting the service you perform at your school?
8. How helpful is the Education Outside online forum in supporting the service you perform at your school?
9. How helpful is the Education Outside Garden Educator Facebook group in supporting the service you perform at your school?
10. How helpful are the in-person announcements at training sessions in supporting the service you perform at your school?
11. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following: The resources provided by Education Outside are what I need to accomplish my tasks.
12. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following: Education Outside resources for garden educators are easy to find.
13. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following: I feel informed on news and information at Education Outside
14. Please share anything else you'd like us to know about your experience with communication and resources from Education Outside.

Program Manager Support

** The questions below are specific to program managers. In order to parse the data, Education Outside either asked garden educators to name their program manager before answering these questions, or asked these questions in separate surveys customized for specific program managers.*

1. How effective is your program manager in supporting you during check-ins?
2. How effective is your program manager in supporting you in lesson planning?
3. How effective is your program manager in supporting you in classroom management?
4. How effective is your program manager in supporting you in working in your school community?
5. How effective is your program manager in supporting you in developing an outdoor classroom?
6. How effective is your program manager in supporting you with teaching effectively (via observations and feedback)?
7. How effective is your program manager at brainstorming with you to find solutions to challenges?
8. How effective is your program manager at supporting you personally?
9. How effective is your program manager at supporting you professionally?
10. How effective is your program manager at supporting you in organizing, planning, and completing projects?
11. How effective is your program manager at communicating clearly and professionally?
12. How effective is your program manager at arriving prepared for site visits and following through on action items?
13. How effective is your program manager at setting goals and tracking progress with you?
14. How effective is your program manager at giving and receiving feedback?
15. Please share anything else you'd like us to know about your experience with your program manager.

Community

1. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following: I feel connected to my garden educator cohort.
2. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following: I feel connected to my regional group.
3. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following: I feel connected to my program manager.
4. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following: I feel welcomed and included by all Education Outside staff.

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5. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following: Education Outside’s staff model the organization’s values.
 6. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following: I know the names of all Education Outside garden educators.
 7. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following: I feel included in the Education Outside community.
 8. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following: I have at least one person at Education Outside that I can go to for support.
 9. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following: Education Outside staff respond to my questions about the service I perform in my school.
 10. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following: Education Outside garden educators respond to my questions about the service I perform in my school.
 11. Please share anything else you’d like us to know about your experience with the Education Outside community.

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Classroom Teacher Survey:

Personal Information

1. What is your school name?
2. What grade level do you teach?

Program Impact

*This section is described further in *Evaluating Your Program: Building Buy-In with Data*, available in the Table of Contents.

1. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following: As a result of participating in the Education Outside program, my students better understand that they live on a planet that supports them and other life.
2. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following: As a result of participating in the Education Outside program, my students better recognize specific elements in their environment, such as plants, animals, rocks and soil.
3. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following: As a result of participating in the Education Outside program, my students are more connected to the environment, including nature.
4. Please share any comments or observations you have about your students' connection to nature due to participation in Education Outside classes this year.
5. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following: As a result of participating in the Education Outside program, my students feel confident about asking questions in the garden.
6. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following: As a result of participating in the Education Outside program, my students feel confident about engaging with their peers about their observations or findings in the garden.
7. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following: As a result of participating in the Education Outside program, my students feel confident about constructing explanations in the garden.
8. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following: As a result of participating in the Education Outside program, my students better engage in science and engineering practices.
9. Please share any comments or observations you have about your students' development of science practice skills and/or science habits of mind due to participation in Education Outside classes this year.
10. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following: As a result of participating in the Education Outside program, my students understand that their actions impact the environment.
11. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following: As a result of participating in the Education Outside program, my students show more empathy towards living things in the garden.
12. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following: As a result of participating in the Education Outside program, my students are excited about caring for the environment.
13. Please share any comments or observations you have about your students' willingness or desire to take care of the environment (either at school or beyond).

Instructor Performance

1. How often does the instructor at your school effectively use the following best practices?
 - a. Materials are organized and ready for student use
 - b. Areas of the garden are delineated so that students know where to engage with the activity
 - c. Agendas and visuals are used during instruction
 - d. Student interest is captured with an engaging opening
 - e. Student attention is maintained throughout class
 - f. Lessons engage multiple learning modalities
 - g. Voice and tone are appropriate for students
 - h. Instructions for activities are clearly explained

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- i. Student behavior is effectively managed
 - j. Lessons close with time for clean up and reflection
 - k. Transitions are clear and safe
 - l. Materials are distributed in an organized fashion
 - m. Discussions allow for student participation
 - n. Students how finish an activity early know what to do
2. Please elaborate below if there is any other information you would like to share about the performance of the instructor at your school.

Program Satisfaction

1. On a scale from 1-10, how likely is it that you would recommend the Education Outside program to a friend or colleague?