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## Literature in the Garden

**Institute, WV** – For kids, summertime brings thoughts of sunshine, vacations, and playing outside. A new program offered in partnership by West Virginia State University Extension Service and the City of Huntington is combining the best of summer and the school year. West Virginia State University Extension Service (WVSUES) and the City of Huntington's Literature in the Garden program allows kids to play in the dirt while learning about books all at the same time.

The mini-camp will take place July 16 -17 from 9am - 2pm both days. It is two days of interactive instruction to youth on insects, books, and gardening with fruits and vegetables. Extension Agent Melissa Stewart, state co-coordinator of the Junior Master Gardener program, will introduce children to a fun story and then use simple learning opportunities in the garden that relate to the stories. Interactive modern/interpretive dance performances will also be held by guests from Jeslyn Performing Arts Center.

"Through hands-on activities and involvement in a true garden setting, these stories will come to life for kids," said Stewart. "We hope to leave them with an appreciation for the work involved in growing the produce they find on the grocers' shelves."

This mini camp offers a fun summer learning opportunity to local children at no cost. Adult volunteers are still needed to assist during the program's activities. WVSUES, WV Junior Master Gardener, and the City of Huntington are working together on Literature in the Garden for the benefit of the Huntington Community Gardens effort. Only 15 spaces are available, so register your child today!

For more information on how your child can become involved, or for volunteer assistance information, contact Melissa Stewart at 304.532.1670 or Jennifer Williams 304.840.2500.

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