What Can We Learn From Beans? Celebrating Diversity through Heirloom Beans and Paul Fleischman’s *Seedfolks*

*Participate in the Cornell Garden-Based Learning 2018 Statewide Youth Development Project*

**Why Participate?**
Engage youth in your community in a unique and powerful learning opportunity. Celebrate the diversity within our gardens and communities by growing beautiful heirloom bean seeds. Host a group-read of Paul Fleischman’s *Seedfolks*, discuss its robust themes and their significance. Use *Seedfolks* as a springboard to other garden-based curriculum.

**Participating Groups Will Receive:**
- 1 copy of *Seedfolks* by Paul Fleischman
- *Seedfolks* discussion questions to guide group dialogue
- 2 varieties of beautiful heirloom bean seeds: Turkey Craw and Tiger’s Eye
- Bean growing guidelines and seed saving information

**What to Expect:**
Receive project supplies to creatively engage youth in your community. Provide us with an impact statement and photos of your work to share on our Facebook and website! **Please note: this project is targeted for Cornell Cooperative Extension staff members and volunteers.**
**Project Mission:**
- Enrich garden-based learning offerings throughout New York State
- Shine a spotlight on the value and importance of diversity both in the garden setting and throughout our communities
- Engage communities in unique and creative garden-based activities
- Support CCE in its efforts to engage youth in exceptional programming

**Our Suggestions for Engagement:**
- Host a community read and discussion of Paul Fleischman’s *Seedfolks*.
- Explore *The Three Sisters*, an award-winning publication that explores food, customs and stories that evolved from the traditional companion planting of corn, beans and squash. Available on the CGBL website.
- Cultivate creativity in the garden with *Dig Art!,* a curriculum that integrates gardening with the arts. Activities teach ecological literacy through visual art, music, performance and more.
- Use *Seedfolks* as a springboard to explore and learn about local food systems with *Youth Grow* and *Discovering Our Food System*. Youth learn about their local food systems and become prepared to be leaders and agents of change in their communities.
- Encourage intergenerational connections by pairing youth with seniors in the community. Have them interview each other and share stories from the garden.

**Application Information:**
Visit our website, [http://gardening.cals.cornell.edu/for-cce-staff/#Emerging%20Statewide%20Projects](http://gardening.cals.cornell.edu/for-cce-staff/#Emerging%20Statewide%20Projects), or contact Fiona Doherty, [fcd9@cornell.edu](mailto:fcd9@cornell.edu), to apply! We have resources for 50 participating groups. **Applications are due by Friday, January 19th.**