

# SWAt Initiative

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SWAt - Science With Attitude - is a collaboration of Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners and 4-H to make sustainable outdoor learning centers in schools. SWAt was the initiative of Janet Laminack, Denton County Extension Agent, thus, SWAt falls under the umbrella of the Denton County AgriLife Extension Office.

The goal of the SWAt team is to teach teachers, scout leaders, and other leaders of youth oriented groups on ways to initiate, implement, and utilize an outdoor learning garden center on their school campuses. To insure that an Outdoor Learning Center will be sustainable over several years, the SWAt team and the team's volunteers conducts teacher in-service classes in the summer with follow up contact on an on-going basis.

The role of a SWAt volunteer will not to be to teach the teachers but to assist the SWAt team. The role of a SWAt volunteer may include some but not all of the following:

1. Assist in organizing and preparing materials to be used in the training sessions.
2. Lending expertise in their areas of knowledge and interest to workshop attendees.
3. Assisting with Riding the Rails activities. (see addendum attached)
4. Be a SWAt advisor.
  - 4a. *Call upon their "adopted" school at least twice a year.*
  - 4b. *Assist teachers by being available to answer gardening questions or to find another expert who can.*
  - 4c. *Assist and guide teachers in organizing garden work-days.*

