

Former San Antonio mayor Phil Hardberger presents Junior Master Gardener certificates

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Former San Antonio mayor Phil Hardberger, third from left, and recipients of the Junior Master Gardener certificates and their family members.

(Texas A&M AgriLife Communications photo by Paul Schattenberg)

Former San Antonio mayor Phil Hardberger recently presented **Junior Master Gardener certificates** to three young home-schoolers involved in a youth gardening program at Phil Hardberger Park in northwest San Antonio.

The three youths were the first to receive certification for participation in the Phil Hardberger Park Children's Vegetable Garden, a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Bexar County Master Gardener-led youth gardening program in collaboration with the Phil Hardberger Park Conservancy.

"Achieving JMG certification is 'the Eagle Scout' equivalent for youth gardening," said Carol White, a 12-year Bexar County Master Gardener. "These three students have completed over 100 assignments addressing various aspects of gardening."

Hardberger presented certificates to Arwen Bailey, Joshua Brooks and Hannah Smith on the vegetable garden grounds. Those also attending the presentation included about 35 youth currently involved in the vegetable garden program, their parents or caregivers, employees of AgriLife Extension and the Phil Hardberger Park Conservancy, and volunteers from the Bexar County Master Gardeners association.

"It's great to see these kids involved in gardening and learning about nature," Hardberger said. "While learning is important, there's nothing like kids getting this kind of hands-on learning experience in the outdoors."

Excerpt , read the whole article here <https://today.agrilife.org/2019/09/26/former-san-antonio-mayor-phil-hardberger-presents-junior-master-gardener-certificates/>