Our Values

What guides CCUA's decision making?

Dignity
Education
Equity
Problem Solving
Raising Quality of Life
Open-Minded
Overlap
Tracking Results
Stewardship
CCUA’s programs provide hands-on opportunities to get involved with agriculture. Programs are designed for participants, not recipients. Experiential learning, with both successes and failures, allows participants to own the result and further their goals.
CCUA’s programs improve basic food and agricultural literacy, especially for people who lack connections to or experiences with agriculture. We give people the knowledge, tools, and skills they need to improve their own lives. CCUA works in many locations and with a variety of teaching styles to accommodate different ways of learning.
Everybody eats! CCUA’s programs are designed to reach people from diverse backgrounds. We respect all people regardless of race, religion, country of origin, sexual orientation, gender, ethnicity, ability, skill level, culture, class, background, or political belief to ensure opportunities are available to everyone in our community. Our programs build upon the diverse goals, skills, and abilities of the people we serve.
We value creative problem solving. Customizing our approach helps solve a variety of challenges, big and small. We utilize resources and partnerships to develop effective solutions.
Our programs are designed to raise the quality of life in Columbia, including community resilience, financial stability, environmental health, and both mental and physical well being.
There is more than one right way to eat and grow food. CCUA’s approach is tailored to the needs of our clients. CCUA advances food and agriculture in a positive light; this is embodied in our motto “Food Is Good.”
We use the power of partnership to reach more people, enhance our work, and enrich the work of our partners. Collaboration makes Columbia a more open and welcoming community. Our goals overlap with the goals of our partners. Our strategies address the stated needs of our community.
CCUA measures how our programs impact participants. Our work is evaluated as part of our commitment to continuous improvement. Good data collection and transparency hold us accountable and help us reach our goals. We regularly publish our results for the community.
We think it's important to care for the land. A garden is a place to discover the connections between the human world and the natural world. We grow food in a way that supports biodiversity, protects soil and water, and produces healthy food.