

SOMERVILLE · FAYETTE COUNTY · TENNESSEE

Rooted Here. Ready to Rise.

For High School Students

Rooted in healing. Rising in power. Building together.



WHY WE'RE HERE

Your community shaped you. What will you build back?

Real skills, real leadership, real impact — starting in your own neighborhood.



WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

Our vision for the neighborhood

RDE Associates builds stronger, more self-sufficient neighborhoods through gardening, civic leadership, and community learning. Young people aren't just the future of this work — you're part of it today.

The people closest to the problem are closest to the solution.

That means you.



Somerville · Fayette County, Tennessee

Somerville and Fayette County carry a proud history of Black self-determination — families who fed themselves, organized for the vote, and built their own schools. That legacy is yours to carry forward.

Food-access gaps in our neighborhoods

A generation ready to lead — if given the chance

History and culture worth protecting



Gardening for Healing

Food, health, and healing from the ground up.

What we do

- Community gardens on vacant lots grow fresh food for families and pantries
- Hands-on workshops in nutrition, cooking, and sustainable growing
- Calm, green space that restores the body, mind, and spirit
- Elders pass gardening wisdom and culture to the young
- Real job skills in horticulture and the growing “green” trades



Image B — community garden with families

For High School Students: Build skills in growing, nutrition, and green-industry work — plus service hours.



Civil Rights Empowerment

Know your rights. Find your voice. Take your seat.

What we do

- Nonpartisan civic and voter education — how change really happens
- Civil-rights history and “know-your-rights” basics
- Leadership development for emerging community leaders
- Mentorship that pairs seasoned leaders with rising ones
- Organizing neighbors around the issues they care about



Image C — neighbors at a civic / leadership workshop

For High School Students: Learn your rights, your history, and how to lead and organize (nonpartisan).



Community Building

Neighbors into a network. A neighborhood into a home.

What we do

- Learning hubs with tutoring, literacy, and enrichment (Rosenwald-inspired)
- Welcoming gathering spaces for meetings, events, and support
- Celebration of local culture, history, and story
- A community-ownership model — residents help lead and sustain the work



Image D — a learning hub or community gathering

For High School Students: Tutoring, mentorship, and a launchpad for college and career.

This only works if we build it together

This is a community-owned effort. It rises on the time, talent, and leadership of people like you.



Serve

Volunteer & earn service hours.



Lead

Step into youth leadership.



Own it

Help shape the work.

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

What we're working toward:



Fresh food within reach

Every family with access to fresh, healthy food.



New local leaders

A rising generation of confident community leaders.



Students thriving

Learning hubs where students grow and succeed.



Owned by the community

Neighbors who lead, sustain, and own the work.

Where you come in

- Volunteer and earn service hours
- Step into youth leadership and mentorship
- Lead a project you care about
- Learn skills that open doors to college and career



Image F — Teens leading a project / mentoring younger kids

CALL TO ACTION

Step up

1

Sign up to volunteer or mentor

2

Bring an idea for your neighborhood

3

Join the youth leadership track

Rooted here. Ready to rise.

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Thank you.

Resource Development Empowerment Associates

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*Image G — a hopeful image of the
community*