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# Youth Activities Volunteer

**Division Assignment:** Public Programs

**Reports to:**

- Lee Coykendall, Children's Education Specialist
- Maura Nelson, Volunteer Coordinator

**Purpose:**

To support the USBG mission of demonstrating the aesthetic, cultural, economic, ecological and therapeutic importance of plants to the well-being of humankind by connecting our youngest visitors to the magic of the plant world through informal and formal learning.

**Primary Responsibilities:**

- Create a welcoming, positive experience for our visitors
- Support and lead child focused activities
- Enthusiastically and accurately communicate information to children about specific topics (e.g., soil, seed dispersal, pollination, plant parts, etc.)
- Create and maintain children's activity materials
- Record and report the number of visitor encounters

**Qualifications:**

- Interest and comfort in serving a younger audience
- Ability to be courteous, respectful and patient with visitors
- Good oral communication skills
- Cooperative nature, including the ability to accept instruction and correction
- Ability to adapt quickly to changing circumstances
- Professional manner and appearance
- Ability to work in an outdoor environment

**Training Provided:**

- Onsite training with the Children's Education Specialist
- Access to interpretive and hands-on activity materials for reference

- Shadowing current volunteers

**Time Commitment:**

- On average, two-hour shifts preferred; scheduled based on volunteer's availability
- Weekday and weekend shifts available
- 75 hours yearly with participation in at least one large event

**Benefits:**

- Opportunities to participate in continuing education at the Garden
- Participation in horticulture in-service training programs offered to volunteers in the Washington, D.C., area
- Participation in USBG public programs for free or at reduced rates on a space-available basis
- Participation in USBG-sponsored volunteer appreciation events
- USBG Volunteer newsletter

**Application:**

There are two formats available to submit an application. Either must be completed and accompanied by any necessary supporting documentation.

Microsoft Word Volunteer Application

Adobe Acrobat fillable PDF Volunteer Application

**Submission:**

Once complete, you may either email your application and any supporting documentation as electronic attachments or send hard copies to the following mailing address:

United States Botanic Garden
Attn: Volunteer Coordinator
245 First Street
Washington, DC 20024-3201

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