Professional Development

We thank you for thinking of the U.S. Botanic Garden as an extension of your cl

rich offerings we have for students, we offer a variety of courses, workshops and teacher trainings to support you in teaching plant science, STEAM and Professional Learning Units (PLUs) are offered for each of the professional development offerings.

Please check our calendar of events for dates and additional information.

DC Teacher Night

We are very excited to continue our collaboration with the DC Environmental Education Consortium to offer DC Teacher Night. This is an environmental evening for all DC area educators. We invite 40 environmental organizations together and under one roof, educators can learn about the diversity of offe your students, in and outside of the classroom.

HOPS Teacher Institute

Each year, 15 teachers will be selected to attend our HOPS Teacher Institute. Teachers will immerse themselves in our outdoor gardens and experience course of two days. Teachers successfully completing the Institute will receive a HOPS box containing the equipment to carry out these hands-on experi classroom and 14 professional learning units. Please note: This training occurs outdoors. For an application and additional information on the HOPS Inst Coykendall at lee.coykendall@aoc.gov.

HOPS Teacher Institute Program Description: Day One will cover 8 modules. We will learn all about water, its importance to plants and plants' importa importance of water to all life and explore the challenges for our local bodies of water. We will use microscopes, test water for temperature, PH and disso watersheds, and build a watershed and water filter. The afternoon is all about how plants work and photosynthesis. Participants will perform plant cutting leaves the plant and how plants take in our carbon dioxide, learn that sugar really does happen in the leaf using refractometers, create art using the pow seed balls.

Day Two explores nature as art in the morning. Participants will have a chance to settle into the quiet of the outdoor gardens and through slow looking, u the natural world. We will use compasses to make sundials and microscopically explore the tiniest of plants. Participants will dissect flowers and learn ho we keep our eyes out for the many pollinators in the Garden. The afternoon is when we tie everything together with an investigation during which we exp identification using microscopes, learn that nectar differs from flower to flower, that different flowers have different pollinators, and that soil is alive.

Professional Development Outreach

Wish you could get to the Garden for training but stuck at your school? Consider incorporating one of our professional development offerings into an esta
development day or, as an evening program at your school. Programs last 60 - 90 minutes and support you in STEAM and inquiry training for grades Pre
Coykendall, Senior Education Specialist, at lee.coykendall@aoc.gov for additional information.

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