



USBG Children's Garden Volunteer

Division Assignment: Horticulture and Public Programs

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 youngest visitors
- Support and lead hands-on plant science focused activities in the Children's Garden
- Enthusiastically and accurately communicate information to children about specific topics (e.g., soil, seed dispersal, pollination, plant parts, etc.)
- Create and maintain hands-on activity materials
- Record and report the number of visitor encounters
- Supports horticulture efforts in the Children's Garden

Qualifications:

- Interest and comfort in serving a diverse, 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 and horticulture staff
- Access to interpretive and hands-on activity materials for reference
- Shadowing current staff/volunteers

Time Commitment:

- Saturdays and Sundays preferred (10 a.m.-2 p.m. or 1-5 p.m. shift)
- Weekday shifts available
- 75 hours per year

Benefits:

- Opportunities to participate in continuing education at the Garden
- Participation in horticulture in-service training programs offered to volunteers in 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

Reports to:

- John Walsh, Gardens and Ground Supervisor
- Beth Ahern, Gardener
- Lee Coykendall, Children's Education Specialist
- Maura Nelson, Volunteer Coordinator