



USBG Conservatory Volunteer Activities

Division Assignment: Horticulture – Tropics

Reports to:

- Wally Reed, Gardener Supervisor
- Chelsea McKinley, Gardener
- 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 assisting the horticulture staff with the care and maintenance of the living plant collection at the downtown Conservatory location.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Assist gardeners with routine horticultural tasks such as weeding, pruning, planting and general cleaning of the Medicinal, Mediterranean, and Rare & Endangered conservatory rooms. Depending on volunteer availability, possible greenhouse work with potted plants at the Production Facility including grooming, weeding, transplanting, plant propagation, use of a blower to clean greenhouse floors, washing pots, sweeping, and moving plants.

Qualifications:

- Available to volunteer within a Monday-Friday 7am-3:30pm schedule
- Interest in care and maintenance of living collections
- Willingness to do all of the above listed responsibilities
- Cooperative nature, including the ability to accept instruction and correction
- Ability to work independently and follow instructions
- Professional manner and appearance
- Must be able to lift 40lbs, bend in awkward positions, kneel for periods of time
- Candidate must have basic knowledge of plants

Training Provided:

- Mandatory participation in USBG volunteer orientation program.
- Minimal horticultural training will be provided. Volunteer will be shown how to complete assigned tasks. More detailed horticultural training possible as opportunities present themselves and the volunteer shows interest.

Time Commitment:

- 100 hours a 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