



USBG Conservatory Volunteer Activities

Division Assignment: Horticulture – Orchid Collection

Reports to:

- Wally Reed, Gardener Supervisor
- Orchid Collection Staff Member
- 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, grooming, and general cleaning of the Orchid Display House. Depending on volunteer availability, possible greenhouse work at the Production Facility. This includes grooming, weeding, transplanting, inventory assistant, prepping plants for display, clean greenhouse and floors, washing pots, sanitize surfaces, sweeping, and moving plants.

Qualifications:

- 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
- Ability to follow specific sanitary orchid handling protocols

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