Volunteer Opportunity Description: *Children’s Garden: Teaching Assistant 2016*

**Description/Purpose**
Work alongside children ages 5-13 as they tend their own garden plots and turn their harvest into delicious snacks. Help gardeners with a variety of tasks, from weeding and planting to listening to directions, cooking, and cleaning up.

**Responsibilities**
Lead by example and assist kids in the tasks presented by the Children’s Garden Instructor. Responsibilities include: helping kids with garden maintenance, passing out supplies, helping with cooking, and cleaning up. Occasionally, you might lead a small group of students in a task that the instructor will set up and explain to you before kids arrive.

**Required Skills/Tasks**
Kid appropriate sense of humor and patience; desire to connect kids with plants, ability to follow directions, ability to redirect kid energy and excitement back to the activity they are supposed to be doing. **Volunteers must pass a background check conducted by the Arboretum before working with children.**

**Time Commitment and Schedule Details**
Planting Saturdays in May and summer Mondays or Wednesdays depending on the session. See the children’s garden description for full session schedule details: http://arboretum.umn.edu/childrensgarden.aspx

**Benefits**
Having fun in the garden with kids, sharing their joy, excitement, and pride as they nurture their own plot. Learn hands-on plant activities to do with kids. Learn about plants and vegetable gardens. Make and taste delicious recipes. Plus, an excuse to visit the Arboretum once a week during the summer!

**Work Environment:**

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<th>Indoors</th>
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<td>Outdoors</td>
<td>Working individually</td>
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**How to Apply for this Opportunity**
If you are currently an Arboretum Volunteer and would like to apply for this opportunity, please contact the supervisor and set up an interview.

**Staff Supervisor & Contact Information**
Melinda Hooker  612-301-3480  mhook@umn.edu

*To become an Arboretum Volunteer, you first need to attend a New Volunteer Orientation. To get started please call the volunteer office at 952-443-1461 or visit our web site at [http://www.arboretum.umn.edu](http://www.arboretum.umn.edu) and click on the volunteer tab.*