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

**Description/Purpose**
Work alongside children as they tend their own garden plots and turn their harvest into delicious snacks. The supporters help gardeners with a variety of tasks, from weeding and planting to listening to directions, cooking, and cleaning up. Garden Chef’s are ages 8-14.

**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 minors.**

**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:**

| x Indoors | x Lifting |
| x Outdoors | x Working individually |
| x Sitting | x Working with children |
| x Standing | x Working as part of a team |

**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

All Arboretum Volunteer opportunities are reserved for registered and active Arboretum Volunteers. All volunteers go through an orientation and screening process prior to applying for opportunities. Learn [HOW TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER](http://arboretum.umn.edu/childrensgarden.aspx) or call the Volunteer Center at 612-301-1203 to get started.