Volunteer Job Descriptions for 2016 Spring Field Trips - Volunteer Instructor

Volunteer Instructor: Spring Overview 2016
Help bring the fascinating world of plants to life. Set in the beautiful formal gardens, natural areas, and unique teaching spaces of the Arboretum, students experience a one-of-a-kind, hands-on plants fieldtrip experience. Join staff at the Learning Center, Sensory Garden, and Spring Peeper Meadow as they welcome students to the Arboretum and lead students through engaging discovery of plants. Volunteers learn and lead 1-2 stations of the field trip for visiting schools and assist in daily set-up and clean-up of the program. Each field trip has an in depth volunteer training session, teaching outline, background material to study, supplies, and support to successfully lead a hands-on plants experience.

Responsibilities
- Learn field trip program materials through attending training, studying teaching outline and program material and observing the program in action.
- Sign up for and lead portions of the fieldtrip program that fit with your personal schedule.
- Assist Arboretum staff in setting up for and cleaning up after program.
- Participate in dialogue with staff and other volunteers about program improvements.

Required Skills
- Enjoy working with youth ages K – 6th grade
- Ability to lead and teach a classroom of students
- Desire to share knowledge about plants and nature
- Bit of patience and a good sense of humor
- **Required Background Check (not required if you have already taken one at the Arboretum.)**

Work Environment:

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<th>Indoors</th>
<th>Lifting - light</th>
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<tr>
<td>Outdoors</td>
<td>Working individually</td>
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<td>Sitting</td>
<td>Working with children</td>
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<td>Working as part of a team</td>
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Benefits
- Learn interesting information about the various field trip topics
- Have fun working with youth
- Contribute to the education mission of the MN Landscape Arboretum
- Connect with others who love the Arboretum and want to share it with school groups

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.

Supervisor & Contact Information
Melinda Hooker, Youth Education  612-301-3480  mhook@umn.edu

Choose One or More of the Following Trips

Field Trip Description: Japanese Garden 1st–6th Grade
A Japanese Garden reflects Japanese culture and values. Discover the traditions and visit Seisui-Tei, the Garden of Pure Water. Rocks are the backbone of the garden, forming the waterfall, the symbolic carp, and tortoise. Create individual take home gardens.

Time Commitment and Schedule Details
- Field trips are Monday–Friday, three times a day (usually 9:30-10:45, 11:15-12:30, 1:15-2:30) May 5-June 2
- Attend MANDATORY training for program on Tuesday, May 4 1:00 pm—4:00 pm at the Sensory Garden.
- Observe the whole program at least once before leading a station.
- Sign-up to teach on our online calendar.
Field Trip Description: Spring to Life! 1st – 2nd Grade
Spring plant life cycles ‘come to life’ as buds leaf out, seeds sprout, and flowers open! Annual plants live a fast life, from seed to seed in a summer; ten years may pass before a tree’s first flower. Search for these ‘one summer’ and ‘many summer’ plants in different stages of their lives. Plant examples to take home.

Time Commitment and Schedule Details
- Field trips are Monday – Friday, three times a day (usually 9:30-10:45, 11:15-12:30, 1:15-2:30) April 26—June 2.
- Attend MANDATORY training for program on Thursday, April 26, 9:00--Noon at the Sensory Garden.
- Observe the whole program at least once before leading a station.
- Sign-up to teach on our online calendar.

Field Trip Description: Ready, Set, Grow! Kindergarten – 1st Grade
People, plants, animals – everything alive has a habitat. With the help of the talking tree, discover how we can plant habitats for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife around our house and school. Search outdoors for signs of plants used by wildlife, start plants to feed caterpillars and provide nectar-filled flowers for butterflies.

Time Commitment and Schedule Details
- Field trips are Monday – Friday, three times a day (usually 9:30-10:45, 11:15-12:30, 1:15-2:30) April 21-June 3.
- Attend MANDATORY training for program on Thursday, April 21, 9:00--Noon at the Learning Center.
- Observe at the whole program at least once before leading a station.
- Sign-up to teach on our online calendar.

Field Trip Description: Woods in Bloom 3rd –6th Grade
Dissect fresh flowers to learn their parts. Discover how pollinators are enticed to visit, thus helping seeds ripen. Enjoy drifts of wildflowers in bloom in the Dayton Wildflower Garden. Search for pollinators in action. Help gather data for a long range study to monitor wildflower bloom-time, related to climate change.

Time Commitment and Schedule Details
- Field trips are Monday – Friday, three times a day (usually 9:30-10:45, 11:15-12:30, 1:15-2:30) April 28—June 2.
- Attend MANDATORY training for program on Thursday, April 28, 9:00--Noon at the Sensory Garden.
- Observe at the whole program at least once before leading a station.
- Sign-up to teach on our online calendar.

Discover Spring Peeper Meadow Field Trip Station Leader
Field Trip Description: Discover Spring Peeper Meadow 2nd – 6th Grade
Follow the boardwalk from dry to squishy to underwater habitats in this restored sedge meadow wetland. Use dipnets and binoculars to see what plants and animals live here now. Help monitor Arboretum scientists’ work to bring nature back in a former cornfield.

Time Commitment and Schedule Details
- Field trips are Tuesday – Thursday, twice a day (usually 9:30-11:30 and 12:30-2:30) May 10 – 26.
- Attend MANDATORY training for program on Thursday, May 10, 9:00--Noon, start at the Learning Center.
- Observe at the whole program at least once before leading a station.
- Sign-up to teach on our online calendar.