Volunteer Job Description: Group Field Trips “Guided Adventures”

Help us teach summer field trips: Volunteer to teach summer guided adventures for kids
Teach kids about seeds and/or the power of plants this summer. This summer the education department is looking for volunteers to help teach two different summer fieldtrips for kids. Each fieldtrip lasts one hour and will take place at the Learning Center. The guided adventure for children ages 3-5 is called “Seeds Away” and focuses on how seeds move, sprout, and grow. Children ages 6-12 will participate in a fieldtrip about biofuel called “Power Up With Plants” and learn how plants photosynthesize and how we depend on plants for energy in many forms. After a fieldtrip training session and/or a chance to observe the fieldtrip, volunteers will work with an arboretum education staff person to teach the fieldtrip. Learning stations include planting seeds, making snacks, helping with a puppet show, assisting with a biofuel science experiment, and a Children’s Garden scavenger hunt. Volunteers are critical to the success of the summer Guided Adventures for kids and the mission of providing experiences for people to explore the importance of plants in their lives.

Responsibilities
- Help set up fieldtrip before the children arrive and clean up after the program
- Teach one of the learning stations
- Pass out supplies
- Lead garden exploration, demonstrate how to plant seeds, or help make a snack
- Help with a puppet show/plant play

Required Skills
- Enjoy working with children and learning new things about plants

Time Commitment and Schedule Details
- Commit to a minimum of 2-3 fieldtrips this summer; approximately 1 hour each
- Fieldtrips are offered June 14- August 6 on Mon., Wed., and Fri.
- There are three time slots offered each day: 9-10 a.m. 11a.m.-12 p.m. or 1-2 p.m.
- Attend initial training and/or observe a fieldtrip in action
- Respond to calls for additional help, depending on your availability

Benefits
- Learn some amazing new things about plants
- Have fun with kids and see the summer gardens
- Contribute to the mission of the education department

Work Environment:

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Working individually
Working with children
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.

Supervisor & Contact Information
Ariel Dressler, Family Programs Coordinator 952-443-1527 dress072@umn.edu
To become an Arboretum Volunteer, you first need to complete the Arboretum Volunteer Application Form and attend a New Volunteer Welcome. To get started please call the volunteer office at 952-443-1461 Monday, Wednesday, or Friday between 9AM – 4PM. Or visit our web site at http://www.arboretum.umn.edu and click on the volunteer tab.