Volunteer Opportunity Description: **Greenhouse Volunteer**

Description/Purpose

Work alongside our greenhouse experts to grow the plants of the Arboretum and Horticultural Research Center (HRC).

Responsibilities/Tasks

The greenhouse volunteer will work along side the staff growers in one of the three greenhouse areas. Plants grown here are for the Arboretum, Learning Center or HRC research projects.

Required Skills

The Volunteer should be an experienced gardener who enjoys caring for plants from seed and plug stage all the way to maturity. Watering training will be offered for each crop and type. Evenness in watering is most important, so have an “eye” for plants and some experience with their cultural needs. Be able to take notes and retain training for the following week’s session or for times when you are working individually.

Regarding working conditions, the volunteer needs to be “hardy”. Have weather tolerance for heat and cold; greenhouse climates can be extreme. Be able to withstand wet or damp working conditions. In the Arboretum and HRC greenhouses, there are tasks requiring long periods of standing to transplant, label and water the plants. Pesticides are used according to label in these environments, but will not be in contact with the volunteer. Fertilizers are used.

Time Commitment and Schedule Details

Tuesdays and Thursday mornings, from 8 to 12 noon are common. Other days and times can be arranged with the staff member. It is best for these jobs to be a “repeat volunteer”, that is: retain the training for the next week’s work. A weekly or regular commitment of this volunteer is most helpful to the staff and provides continuity.

Benefits/Impact

The greenhouses grow the ornamental plants for the Arboretum’s gardens and the seedlings for the HRC research programs. By participating in greenhouse work, the volunteer is learning the best practices from very experienced professional growers. The Mission of the Arboretum is expressed with these plants in ornamental gardens, classes and research plots. (display, education and research). Many different species of plants are cared for in these greenhouses.

Work Environment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Indoors</th>
<th>Lifting—up to 30 pounds and wet flats of seedlings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Outdoors</td>
<td>Working individually</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sitting</td>
<td>Working with children</td>
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<td>Standing</td>
<td>Working as part of a team</td>
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<td>Computer skills are helpful for record keeping and flow chart notes.</td>
<td>Labeling and record keeping of plants and crops; shovel bagged and premixed soils. Have an interest in plant’s scientific names.</td>
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**How to Apply for this Opportunity**

If you are currently an Arboretum Volunteer and would like to apply for these opportunities, please contact the supervisor and set up an interview.

**Staff Supervisor & Contact Information**

**Prefer an email, please. Please make an appointment so we can introduce our selves and provide time for introductions and an orientation.**

Ricky Garza, Arboretum Greenhouse Grower, 612-301-1216; garza019@umn.edu
Tacy Sickeler, HRC research horticulturist, 612-301-1831; sicke001@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](#) or call the Volunteer Center at 612-301-1203 to get started.*