Children’s Garden Mentor Job Description 2011

Job description:
We are looking for four mentors for each of our Children’s Garden programs. As garden mentor you will be a role model to the younger gardeners in the session. If you love gardening, have experience gardening, and would like to help others enjoy gardening, you should consider applying to become a garden mentor. We are looking for mentors who have the following qualifications:
- Have completed 2 years in the Children’s Garden Program.
- Are at least 12 years old as of May 1, 2011
- Demonstrate ability to follow directions and work well with others
- Love gardening and nature exploration
- Like working with younger kids.
- Enjoy contributing ideas and working on special projects.
- Like being out-of-doors in all types of weather, rain or shine. (of course except in severe weather).

Responsibilities and expectations include:
- Assisting garden leaders in set up and clean up, including washing dishes, prepping snack, and wiping tables.
- Motivate the participants in the activities we are doing including weeding, watering, harvesting.
- Working along side participants to complete activities.
- Modeling appropriate behavior to promote a peaceful garden environment.
- Showing enthusiasm and enjoying their time in the garden.

Commitment:
- One morning or afternoon per week. Mentors will be expected to arrive ½ hour before children arrive to help set up the day’s activities and will be expected to stay ½ hour after children are scheduled to leave to help cleanup.
- In an effort to provide consistent mentoring for program participants, mentors are encouraged to consider their ability to commit for the entire program. We ask that you miss no more than two program days.

Sessions:
Mentors may choose any one of three garden sessions: Mighty Mites, Seed Sowers, or Garden Chefs (mentors must be >16yrs old for Chefs). Read the descriptions, dates/ times, and choose the session which works best for your schedule and interests you the most.

Questions:
Please call or email Randy Gage 952-443-1475  gage0020@umn.edu or Kim Braun 952-443-4403 kube0028@umn.edu

Thanks for your interest in becoming a mentor!!!
**Mighty Mites** (led by Kim Braun)
For entering Kindergarten-1st grade grads.
Planting Saturdays 1:30-3:30 (Mentors 1:00-4:00) May 14 and June 4
Summer Tuesdays 1:30-3:30 (Mentors 1:00-4:00)
June 14, 21, 28
July 12, 19, 26
August 2, 9

Dig in and get ready for a mighty summer of gardening fun. From sowing seeds to harvesting produce, we will have a hands-on plant adventure. Soaring sunflowers, rainbow radishes, and fragrant flowers are just some of the plants we will investigate. Join us as we figure out how our garden grows!

**Seed Sowers** (led by Kim Braun)
For 1st – 4th Grade Graduates
Planting Saturdays 9:00-11:30 (Mentors 8:30-12:00) May 14 and June 4
Summer Mondays 9:00-11:30 (Mentors 8:30-12:00)
June 13, 20, 27
July 11, 18, 25
August 1, 8

Get ready for an exciting summer of gardening at the Arboretum. Seed Sowers will sow seeds, tend sprouts, try hands-on science, and turn some of our produce into yummy garden fresh snacks in the Harvest Kitchen.

**Garden Chefs:** (led by Randy Gage)
For 3rd – 8th Grade Graduates
Planting Saturdays 10:00-12:30 (Mentors 9:30-1:00) May 7 and 21
Summer Tuesdays 10:00-12:30 (Mentors 9:30-1:00)
June 14, 21, 28
July 12, 19, 26
August 2, 9

Garden Chefs will take their weekly garden harvest and create a garden lunch in the Harvest Kitchen. From seed to table, Garden Chefs will be involved in every aspect of growing their own lunch. Emphasis will be on trying many variations and tasting choices related to the fresh produce from the garden. Garden Chefs will create new recipes and also explore how to add their garden harvest to their favorite lunch recipes.