Volunteer Team Descriptions and Interest Sheet

Updated 12/12

The following pages contain detailed descriptions of the four volunteer teams open to new volunteers taking the January 2012 Volunteer Training Class. Please review the team descriptions, specialized training schedules and on-going volunteer schedule information carefully to find the best match with your interests and availability.

Once you have identified your top choice then print, complete, and submit this page with your Volunteer Application. If you are unsure, or interested in more than one team, please rank your choices (1 = top choice, 2 = second choice, etc.).

Your Name__________________________________________________

Team You Would Like to Join:

_____ Gardeners

_____ Nursery Propagators

_____ Nursery Caretakers

_____ Curatorial
Volunteer Team Descriptions

GARDENERS
Volunteer gardeners work in partnership with the Arboretum horticultural staff to maintain and develop Arboretum gardens and collections. Team members share an interest in gardening and a sense of camaraderie from working together for a common purpose. Activities include pruning, mulching, weeding, planting, raking, building paths, and assisting with garden development projects. In addition to learning more about environmentally responsible gardening and gaining experience identifying plants, gardener volunteers help make a difference in the appearance of the Arboretum every week. Gardeners work outside year round and should enjoy doing physical work.

Specialized Training Schedule: Five consecutive Wednesday mornings, Jan. 16, Jan. 23, Jan. 30, Feb. 6, Feb. 13; 9 a.m.-noon

Regular Volunteer Day after Training Complete: The Arboretum has five different active volunteer Gardener teams. Two teams meet Tuesday morning, one team meets Wednesday morning, and two teams meet Thursday morning. Each team specializes in a different section of the Arboretum. Near the end of the Gardener specialized training, new Gardeners will be asked to select one of these teams for their on-going assignment.

NURSERY PROPAGATORS
Nursery Propagator Volunteers partner with the Arboretum Nursery Manager to produce and care for ornamental plants in a container nursery. They propagate plants by seed and cuttings, coordinate irrigation needs with staff and irrigate plants if needed, repot plants, weed and prune plants, rake leaves, lift and carry plants, clean and organize. Nursery Propagator Volunteers keep propagation records and nursery inventory, print tags, and record all activities as necessary. Nursery Propagator Volunteers should be interested in learning about growing plants in containers and plant propagation methods, and be able to work in cooperation with others in sometimes crowded conditions. Experience or course work in the culture and propagation of plants is a plus but not required. These teams work both indoors and outdoors so members should be willing to work in all weather conditions. The ability to work independently as well as a member of a team is highly recommended. All Nursery Propagator Volunteers must be able to follow safe work practices.


Regular Volunteer Day after Training Complete: The Arboretum has three different active Nursery Propagator volunteer teams. One team meets Tuesday morning, one team meets Wednesday morning, and one team meets Thursday morning. Near the end of the specialized training, new Nursery Propagator volunteers will be asked to select one of these teams for their on-going assignment. Nursery Propagator Volunteers are also required to work a minimum of 2 plant sales per year.
NURSERY CARETAKERS (Maximum of 3 openings available)
The Nursery Caretaker Volunteers will partner with the Arboretum Curator, Nursery Manager, and Assistant Director of Horticulture to care for the nursery growing area at Arboretum Headquarters. Duties will involve maintaining nursery plants, insuring accurate plant labels are with each plant, small amounts of propagation, and general nursery maintenance such as weeding, watering, and fertilization. As needed, Nursery Caretaker Volunteers may also be called upon to help the Nursery staff with the preparation and execution of plant sales during the spring and fall seasons. Nursery Caretaker Volunteers should love plants and enjoy detail-oriented work. Computer literacy is required and careful attention to accuracy is more important than speed. This position is hands-on and also requires organizational skills. This team will work both indoors and outdoors so members of this crew should be willing to work in all weather conditions. The ability to work independently as well as a member of a team is highly recommended. All Nursery Maintenance Volunteers must be able to follow safe work practices.


Regular Volunteer Day after Training Complete: Tuesday mornings; 9 a.m.-noon.

CURATORIAL VOLUNTEERS (Maximum of 6 openings available)
Curatorial Volunteers work with the Arboretum Curator to help document the plant collections, assist with plant labeling, help maintain the Arboretum plant records system, and assist with collection mapping projects. Curatorial Volunteers may also help the Curatorial staff collect plant samples and prepare lists as needed for scientific research and teaching. Curatorial Volunteers should enjoy detail-oriented work and have an interest in museums and conservation issues; research skills are valuable. Careful attention to accuracy is more important than speed in nearly all curatorial operations. Much work in the curatorial area is quiet and independent and suited to a well-organized person. Volunteers must be willing to work with computer records and to work outdoors in variable weather conditions.


Regular Volunteer Day after Training Complete: Thursday mornings; 9 a.m.-noon.