



UNITED STATES BOTANIC GARDEN

Festival Volunteer

Division Assignment: Public Programs

Reports to:

- Maura Nelson, Volunteer Coordinator
- Public Programs Staff

Purpose: To support large-scale public events (“festivals”) occurring sporadically throughout the year. All festivals are in service to the USBG mission of demonstrating the aesthetic, cultural, economic, ecological and therapeutic importance of plants to the well-being of humankind by connecting our youngest visitors to the magic of the plant world through informal and formal learning.

Festivals (subject to change):

- Production Facility Open House – Early March
- Spring Festivals (e.g., Earth Day, Endangered Species Day, etc.) – April-May
- Summer Festival (theme: same as the Spring/Summer Terrace show) – mid-June
- Fall Festival (theme: Junior Botanist) – mid to late September

Primary Responsibilities:

- Create a welcoming, positive experience for our visitors.
- Support and lead hands on plant science activities during festivals.
- Enthusiastically and accurately communicate information to children about specific topics.

Qualifications:

- Interest and comfort in serving a diverse audience
- Ability to be courteous, respectful and patient with visitors
- Good oral communication skills
- Cooperative nature, including the ability to accept instruction and correction
- Ability to adapt quickly to changing circumstances
- Ability to work independently and/or as part of a team
- Professional manner and appearance
- Ability to work in an outdoor environment and work on feet for a number of hours

NOTE: This volunteer position does not require formal badging process.

Training Provided:

- Mandatory volunteer orientation (offered quarterly)
- Onsite training with Public Programs Staff
- Access to interpretive and hands-on activity materials for reference
- Being partnered with current volunteers

Time Commitment:

- Commitment to *at least* two festivals per calendar year
- Mandatory attendance at training in advance of festival(s)

Benefits:

- Opportunities to participate in continuing education at the Garden
- Participation in horticulture in-service training programs offered to volunteers in Washington D.C. area
- Participation in USBG public programs for free or at reduced rates on a space-available basis
- Participation in USBG-sponsored volunteer appreciation events
- Pride is being part of a world class botanic garden team