

Children's Garden Docent Volunteer Position Description



Goal of the Position: To provide a fun and meaningful education experience for children (schools, scouts, daycares, preschools, etc.) in the Garden.

Location: Tours take place throughout the developed areas of the Garden as well as our natural areas. Tours are typically 1.5 hours in length and can cover between $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Each docent will lead 15 to 20 students along with several adult chaperones.

Responsibilities:

- Participate in docent training and update meetings prior to each season
- Observe multiple tours with multiple guides before leading your own group
- Facilitate guided tours of GBBG to youth
- Have sufficient knowledge of tour content to engage students in meaningful and appropriate ways

Qualifications:

- Enthusiasm for teaching and guiding children through plant-related activities
- Comfortable leading a group of youth and adults through the Garden
- Comfortable facilitating groups in educational activities
- Ability to communicate effectively and clearly
- Dependable and timely
- Ability to walk in various weather conditions for the length of the tour
- Previous experience instructing youth is helpful, but not required

Dress:

- Wear comfortable, professional clothing appropriate for working outdoors and with children. Nametags will be provided.
- Always wear sturdy shoes or sandals.

Orientation/Training:

- General orientation to Green Bay Botanical Garden and an initial volunteer program overview with the Volunteer Manager
- Training is done on-site with GBBG Education staff at the beginning of each season. There are several curriculum-based tour themes for groups to choose from, and guides will be trained on each topic.

Time Commitment:

School tours are held onsite at GBBG during the months of April-October. Spring is our busiest season with multiple tours every day! Summer and fall have about 1 tour per week. Some docents volunteer once/week, others help every day.

Staff Contact: Kelle Hartman, Children & Family Educator at (920) 491-3691 X 107 or khartman@gbbg.org

Volunteer Appreciation at Green Bay Botanical Garden

GBBG values its volunteers and makes every effort to provide timely volunteer recognition. All staff and volunteers responsible for volunteer supervision are encouraged to undertake on-going, informal methods of recognition of volunteer service. These methods range from "thank you's" to a concerted effort to include volunteers as participants in program decision-making and implementation.

In addition, volunteers who contribute **25 or more hours** between January and December (previous calendar year) qualifies them for a "Volunteer Appreciation Card" handed out at the Volunteer Season Kick Off event in Spring.

Our GBBG Appreciation Program consists of:

- ✓ **25 Volunteer Hours over 3 months:**
 - Permanent GBBG nametag to be worn while volunteering
 - Free annual gift given at our Volunteer Appreciation event (must be present)
 - Annual recognition in an issue of the GBBG newsletter
- ✓ **50 Volunteer Hours:** all the above plus:
 - a 15% discount at our WPS Trellis Gift Shop (this is an additional 5% discount from the 10% membership discount given – must present card at time of purchase)
- ✓ **75 volunteer Hours:** all of the above plus:
 - 2 general admission complimentary GBBG passes (not including Special Events)
- ✓ **100+ Volunteer Hours:** all of the above plus:
 - Free admission to 2 GBBG lectures/classes during a calendar year (no carry over) with a maximum member fee of \$9. Volunteers must pre-register by the class deadline and present this card at class check-in. Number of volunteer registrants is limited so register early!

Finally, and most importantly, many GBBG volunteers explain that their greatest reward comes from helping others. The personal and professional growth, the challenges and the friendships from volunteer experiences are life-long rewards. The opportunity to be of service to others is important to all volunteers.

If you are volunteering for the Garden as part of a group, for example, with your service club, church group, retirement organization or the like, the hours you contribute in that endeavor will accrue to the group and not to each individual member of the group.

If you have questions about your benefits or hours, please contact:
Anne Basten, Membership & Volunteer Manager
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920-491-3691 X105, abasten@gbbg.org www.gbbg.org