



Service Learning Program 2012

The **Children's Garden Service Learning Program** provides middle and high school age students with the chance to explore career opportunities in a non-profit work environment while accumulating community service hours. Through our long term program, students develop a strong work ethic, learn valuable life skills, gain practical work experience and gain a greater appreciation of the human relationship with nature. High expectations of the students' work will give students a sense of accomplishment as they reach different levels of responsibility, and their relationship with the Garden grows.

The Service Learning Program is a long term program designed to help students develop leadership skills while:

- Gaining practical work experience
- Building a resume
- Exploring career options
- Developing a relationship with a local botanic garden
- Teaching young children about nature and gardening and
- Having fun outside!

For more information on how to apply, please visit the Garden's website at:
<http://www.lewisginter.org/volunteers>.

All interested students must be 13 years of age or older to apply.

Students must submit applications, essays and three references by January 31, 2012 to be considered for the 2012 season.

Position descriptions, training requirements, and expected commitments are listed below. Please call Erin Wright at (804) 262-9887 ext. 346 or email ewright@lewisginter.org with questions about the program.

Program Descriptions

Level I (Entry Level)

Requirements and Commitment

- The student must be at least 13 years old
- Complete an application, essay, and provide three references
- Must attend all relevant training opportunities and interviews (dates TBA)
- 3 hours per month on weekends, April through October, 21 hours total
- Complete an end of season survey

Description of Responsibilities

Implement and assist in the following areas:

- help keep this botanically rich and diverse environment safe and well-maintained, tend compost, learn gardening basics
- engage visitors, organize tools, props, supplies and prepare materials that support daily activities

Level II

Requirements and Commitment

- 15 - 18 years old, or at the discretion of staff
- Must attend all relevant training orientations (dates TBA)
- One year experience at the Garden, including Level I training
- 6 hours per month on weekend or week days, April through October
- 42 total hours total
- Opportunities available during Dominion GardenFest of Lights, November 25 through January 9
- Complete an end of season survey

Description of Responsibilities

Implement and assist in the following areas:

- **Horticulture:** Assists staff with seasonal garden work on weekends and for Drop-in and Dig, helps Level I volunteers effectively perform horticulture tasks, assists with the Full Circle Garden growing herbs and the Community Kitchen Garden on Tuesday and Thursday mornings during summer break, tend compost
- **Group Programs:** Assists Education staff on certain weekday mornings with Young Buds (Preschool aged students) programs and camps, Discovery (Kindergarten through Fifth Grade) programs and camps
- **Family Programs :** Engages visitors, assists Manager on Duty on weekends with daily programs and activities as well as Tuesday evenings for Families After 5, helps Level I students set and maintain daily activities for family programs, assists with special events in the Children's Garden
- **Dominion GardenFest of Lights:** assists as assigned, November 25 through January 9 (additional training required).

Level III

Requirements/ Commitment

- 16 – 18 years old, or at the discretion of staff
- Two years of experience at the Garden
- Ability to work independently
- Participate in training (dates TBA)
- 84 hours total in a twelve month period
- Opportunities available in the Children's Garden from April through October and during Dominion GardenFest of Lights, November 25 through January 9
- Complete an end of season survey

Description of Responsibilities

Implement and assist in the following areas:

- **Horticulture:** Assists staff with seasonal garden work on weekends and -for Drop in and Dig, helps Level I volunteers effectively perform horticulture tasks, assists in the Full Circle Garden and the Community Kitchen Garden on Tuesday and Thursday mornings during summer break, tend compost
- **Group Programs:** Assists Education staff with Young Buds (Preschool aged students) programs and camps, Discovery (Kindergarten through Fifth Grade) programs and camps, helps Group Program Trainees facilitate educational programs
- **Family Programs:** Assists family program staff with the preparation of materials, the development and implementation of family activities, and helps other volunteers engage families in the Garden, assists with special events in the Garden
- **Dominion GardenFest of Lights-** Assist staff with seasonal jobs, November 25 through January 9.