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Native Plant Garden Assistant Position Description

Title: Native Plant Garden Assistant

Supervisor: Wisconsin Native Plant Gardener

Objective: To work with Arboretum staff and other volunteers to install and maintain the Wisconsin Native Plant Garden.

Responsibilities:

1. Participate in gardening tasks: planting, weeding, watering, mulching, site preparation, tree care, pruning, seed collecting, clean-up, etc.
2. Be willing to learn: native plants of Southern Wisconsin, weed species, gardening and landscaping techniques.
3. Do physical work outdoors under varying weather conditions. Dress appropriately for outdoor work (long pants and sturdy shoes) and protect self from sun exposure and insects.
4. Be attentive to safety and ergonomic issues when gardening and using tools. Follow Arboretum staff instructions while doing garden tasks.

Qualifications: Willingness to work outdoors with others, learn native plants and weed species, learn gardening techniques, and learn about native plant communities.

Training: No previous experience is needed—all tools and training are provided. Training will be provided by program supervisor. Background in gardening and/or plant identification is helpful, but not required. We learn as we work in, and enjoy, the gardens.

Commitment: Each Native Plant Garden Assistant sets his/her own schedule in consultation with the Gardener. Weekly, biweekly or other schedules for individuals or groups can be arranged. The gardening season runs from April to October, weather and site conditions permitting.

Benefits: Native Plant Garden Assistants learn about Wisconsin's native plants and weeds while gardening with others in a beautiful outdoor setting. All Native Plant Garden volunteers receive an annual update letter. Volunteers also receive:

- An invitation to the Annual Volunteer Recognition Reception
- Recognition in the Arboretum newsletter's volunteer recognition issue
- An invitation to the Winter Enrichment Education Series for Arboretum volunteers and Madison-area naturalists
- A periodic volunteer newsletter
- Free parking

This is an equal opportunity position. Please let us know if you need any accommodations.

Please contact Susan Carpenter, Native Plant Gardener susan.carpenter@wisc.edu or 608-262-2445 for more information.