Teen Volunteer Position Description

**Position Title:** Teen Horticulture Volunteer

**Program Summary:** The Gardens’ Summer Teen Volunteer Program provides teens with the opportunity to develop leadership and job skills through horticultural practices in the field. Teens may be assigned to one horticulturist for the entire summer or switch between staff to work on different projects each week.

**Length of Commitment:** The program runs from June through July, with possible extension into mid-August. Shifts are usually three-hours long on a regular weekday morning (e.g. every Wednesday from 9 a.m.- noon).

**Purpose of Position:** This position engages teens in hands-on garden work, helping them develop knowledge about gardening. By connecting with plants, teens will develop horticultural knowledge that they can utilize in the future and share with visitors, peers, and family.

**Key Responsibilities:**

- Help horticulture staff with maintenance of specified sections of the garden including watering, deadheading flowers, pruning, weeding, planting, amending soil, adding mulch to gardens, and other tasks as needed
- Educate visitors about what they are doing in the garden

**Qualifications:**

- Friendly and energetic
- Willing to work in conditions that can be hot and sunny
- Willing to work in conditions that may include bugs
- Physically prepared to work outside in the gardens (stay hydrated, use sunscreen, wear appropriate clothing for weather conditions and summer season, etc.)
- Able to interact with visitors and answer questions while working in the gardens

**Training:** For this position, teen volunteers will receive training during their first shift.

**Program Requirements:** In order to apply for this position, teens must be at least 13 years of age as of May 31, 2020. Once selected, one three-hour shift per week is required. If a teen must miss a shift because of vacation or illness, he/she is encouraged to make up any missed time by picking up another shift if possible.

**Age Requirement:** 13-17 years old

**Items to Bring:** Water bottle, sunscreen, bug repellant, hat, gardening gloves, and kneeling pad; wear closed toed shoes. You will be working outside in the summer sun, so please prepare accordingly. Teens can also bring their own tools such as a *hori hori* or soil knife and hand pruner; a limited number of these tools will be available to check out during the volunteer shift as well.
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Reports to: Horticulture staff, seasonal horticulture staff

Location: York Street or Chatfield Farms