Teen Volunteer Position Description

Position Title: Exploration Activity Guide

Program Summary: The Gardens’ Summer Teen Volunteer Program provides teens with the opportunity to develop leadership and job skills while engaging families in experiential learning. Volunteers in this position enhance the experience for visitors to Mordecai Children’s Garden (MCG). We will accept up to 12 Exploration Activity Guides each season.

Length of Commitment: The program runs June-July with possible extension into August. Three to four-hour shifts are available on most mornings 8:30 a.m. – noon.

Purpose of Position: Exploration Activity Guides facilitate preplanned activities and projects within the Children’s Garden that extend the learning and discovery opportunities for families as they explore the Gardens.

Key Responsibilities:

- Retrieve activity materials from storage location(s), review activity guide that describes the activity, and set up activity materials within the Children’s Garden
- Briefly explain activity to children and their families
- Facilitate completion of the activity by providing direction and encouragement, asking questions and assisting in tasks
- Keep activity area and materials clean and presentable
- Assist with other Children’s Garden material maintenance such as moving around pinecones and building blocks and loosening soil in the digging pit
- Assist with visitor experience projects such as materials usage observations and restocking materials
- Return activity materials to storage and wash materials as necessary

Qualifications:

- Friendly, energetic, and outgoing
- Comfortable and confident teaching children of all ages
- Able to relate activity concepts to adults as well to engage them in learning opportunities in MCG
- Able to work outside in the mornings during the summer

Training: Training will be held on Monday, June 1, from 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. in the Morrison Discovery Center.

Program Requirements: A minimum of 6 weekday shifts 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

Reports to: Melissa Gula, Manager of Family and Children’s Programs; other MCG staff

Location: York Street - Mordecai Children’s Garden