
How to Volunteer at the Botanical Center with Friends of the Garden

“Something truly special happens when you share yourself with others...”

You'll have opportunities to meet new people and make new friends, share interests and hobbies with others, work in a beautiful and stimulating environment, and make your community a better place to live.

Our volunteers are special people. They care. They have a sense of commitment to something greater than their own personal needs. They have a direct impact on achieving the mission and goals of Friends of the Garden. We recognize that our volunteers provide the Garden with a source of talent that is unavailable in any other way. The Garden values this contribution and hopes to offer each volunteer a satisfying, productive, and rewarding experience.

“Who does all the work in the gardens?” We're often asked this question by park visitors. It's accomplished by special people – volunteers who care, and you could be among them. By participating as an active volunteer, you'll form lasting relationships, learn new techniques, and share in the satisfaction that comes with helping the Gardens fulfill its mission by providing valuable services and educational programs

for school children, gardeners, nature enthusiasts, professional horticulturists, home owners, and make our community a better place to live.

“How much time does it take?” A benefit of volunteering for Friends of the Garden is flexibility. Some organizations require a certain number of hours per week, month or year. Friends of the Garden is unique in that we offer opportunities for people who might only be able to participate for special events. We also have amazing volunteers who serve in many capacities on a daily basis. The choice is yours. No job is too small. Every hour counts and every hour makes a difference.

Volunteers work in a variety of ways, inside or outdoors, and there's a tremendous amount of work accomplished virtually – from the comfort of home. Whatever your interests or talent, gardener or not, if you believe in the mission, we'll explore the opportunities based on your availability to find ideal fits. We have many ways in which you can share your love of nature. Email info@friendsofthegarden.org or call 417-840-5472 to explore your opportunities.

Artists

Whether inspired by nature or created from nature, artists are invited to share their creations or skills in special events, exhibits or scheduled workshops at the Botanical Center. Set-up your easel in the garden and capture the beauty or show us how we could use the garden's bounty in craft activities!

Botanical Center Greeters

Welcome! This regional attraction is the new home base for multiple garden organizations and people who enjoy the park. Greet visitors and share information about all the exciting things in The Botanical Center & Gardens they might not otherwise discover including everyday park features and special events. With 114 acres, there's plenty of information to share!

Butterfly House Docents

Share your passion for plants, butterflies and teaching in our Native Missouri Butterfly House. Each visit is an educational discovery because different species will be at different stages in their life cycle throughout the season. Help monitor their habitat, greet the public, teach about butterflies and answer questions. Training is provided.

The Butterfly House

Did you know we have volunteers who help raise caterpillars and butterflies in order to fill the Butterfly House? We also have plant propagators who make sure we have enough food for our winged friends. Want to help?

Carpentry & Metalworking

Do love to build things? There's always something that needs to be built or repaired. Be creative! Whether it's functional or inspired, let us know what ideas you'd like to pursue.

Community & Business Groups

In addition to individuals, we also welcome groups of volunteers. Are you involved with a group that looks for community service projects? It doesn't have to be a garden group. Examples include churches, green teams, scout troops, businesses, schools, service organizations, college programs, all are welcome. We have projects for group volunteers March through October.

Computer Coders

Into computers? Like writing cool apps or know php? You might be surprised at how Friends of the Garden can use this talent.

Educators

Education is at the heart of the mission of The Botanical Center. Do you enjoy sharing love of nature, gardens and conservation based on your knowledge, experience and expertise? Whether it be about specific plant species or a garden art workshop, we have the facilities for you to host programs for garden organizations and for the public.

Floater

Up for anything? Some of our volunteers really enjoy being able to help where needed and to experience variety of activities. Meet people with various talents and benefit your community in ways you might not have thought were available.

Fundraising

The growth and maintenance of the gardens are dependent on membership, donations, and volunteers. If you enjoy coordinating successful fundraising events, we have big dreams for The Botanical Center & Gardens. We're looking for people who enjoy making amazing things happen. After all, it's this ground work by others that enables you to be enjoying what you see now.

Gardeners

Love Gardens? Want more? You can help! Work side by side with experienced gardeners. Receive practical hands-on experience if you're a beginning gardener.

Grant Writers

So many opportunities, so little time. Are you willing to help? We know the grants are out there and we have established educational resources like the University of Missouri Extension, Master Gardeners of Greene County and local chapters of national horticultural organizations which lay the foundation for supporting many grants. Funding enables us to support our mission which serves you, the community.

Hardscaping

With more than 20 gardens to be installed over the next several years, there is plenty of heavy lifting required. This includes the construction and maintenance of hardscape (non-plant elements) including borders, irrigation, pergolas, outdoor furniture, shed, support of garden paths, and mulch.

Marketing & Publicity

Getting the word out can take many forms: from press releases to membership packets, from handwritten letters to Facebook, from botanical illustrations to four color brochures. Or maybe you're comfortable in front of a camera during interviews. We're looking for talented people who enjoy being creative.

Membership

With more than 800 members and growing, Friends of the Garden membership requires dedicated attention. Renewal forms need to be mailed, data needs to be updated, memberships need to be processed, cards need to be written. If you're detail oriented and enjoy the administrative tasks, this one's for you.

Plants Records Aid

Have a mind for plant varieties and Latin names? Enjoy keeping things organized? The Botanical Center & Gardens serves its mission best with a database of plant records specific to our gardens and plant labeling.

Plant Propagators

Every Botanical Center & Gardens can benefit from plant propagators. Do you enjoy witnessing seeds sprout and nurturing seedlings as they grow? Or perhaps you're good at rooting from cuttings. There might be a need that can be filled if you've got the space. Seeding, cuttings, and division of desirable plants can be coordinated with our garden adoptors.

Photographers

Capture the essence of an ever changing landscape, nature events, and all the behind-the-scenes work it takes to make the gardens enjoyable for the public. All these moments tell the story of the park. We'll even give you your own online photo gallery where you can share your images.

Speakers Bureau

We are delighted to offer speakers for groups and always looking for people willing to speak. Friends of the Garden volunteers are community members who have a special interest in gardening and other aspects of horticulture. Combine your love of educating groups and your passion for nature as you offer your knowledge and fill requests from the community.

Special Events: Off-Site

Friends of the Garden has become well known among garden organizations within the community. As a result, we're often asked to host a booth at area events so that others can learn about all the amazing things we have to offer.

Special Events: On-Site

Don't have a lot of time to devote throughout the year? There are plenty of special events in the park we need help with. We're looking for people willing to share the story of Friends of the Garden at our main booth for partner events.

Tour Guides

The Botanical Center & Gardens has regular requests for guided tours throughout the park. Guides are needed for The Butterfly House, The Botanical Center, and the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden. You can help bring the gardens to life for others by leading tours for a wide range of visitors.

Trail Walkers

Enjoy being outside and meeting and greeting people? We'd like to extend The Botanical Center hospitality beyond the building and into the park. With new visitors every day, there are often questions about particular gardens, organizations who are park partners, or features the park has to offer like events and educational programs.

Videographers

It's nice to have a variety of views documented. Post a videos of the gardens on YouTube. Capture special events like the corpse plant. Document the life cycle of a butterfly in the Butterfly House. Capture the stories within the park and share.

Volunteer Coordination

If you've been reading the above options for volunteers, you can see the need for people to help schedule people for special events inside the park and out, for garden work parties, and for day-to-day tasks. If you like to work with people and are good with scheduling, we can certainly use the help.

Writers

Do you enjoy writing features about plants, people or special events? Are you good at research? Do you have experience with copywriting or editing? Or maybe you're a gardener who likes to hang out on Facebook. Friends of the Garden has multiple avenues for writers to share their talents. These include our website at friendsofthegarden.org, our quarterly FOG newsletter, the FOG Blog, Facebook, informational brochures and more.

Youth Activities

The Botanical Center has a mission of education and spaces to teach. From Young Sprouts in the Garden, to the Butterfly Festival, and Monarch Tagging Day to Santa and Friends, there are many opportunities to lead activities which introduce children to the wonders of nature. Whether it be a hosting a craft activity or an investigative look at the life cycle of the butterfly, you can share your knowledge and love of nature with children who are eager to learn.

Friends of the Garden

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