



Governors Island Teaching Garden Volunteer Positions

Governors Island Teaching Garden, a program of GrowNYC, is a 21,000 square foot urban farm that aims to engage, excite, and educate New York City public school students and the public in all aspects of urban farming and environmental sustainability.

We are seeking outgoing and enthusiastic individuals interested in one of three unpaid positions below. A commitment to consistently volunteering at least one day/week for the season is a must.

1. School Field Trip Volunteers

NYC students in grades K-12 visit the garden for 1 hour of hands-on programming. Students are split into groups as they rotate through different 15-minute stations. School field trip volunteers help facilitate educational lessons and activities, which may include planting, harvesting, cooking, compost, green infrastructure, and tours of the garden. A passion for food and/or environmental education is a must. The Spring 2017 season is Tuesdays-Thursdays, April 18-June 22. Hours are approximately 9am-1:30 or 2:30pm and include two field trips per day.

Responsibilities include: set up and break down of stations (may include some heavy lifting), organize and maintain lesson materials, assist and lead student discussions and activities, escort classes to/from the ferry, and basic garden maintenance.

Ideal Qualifications:

- High school graduate (over 18 years old)
- Interest in food, sustainability, the environment, food justice, and urban farming
- Experience working with NYC school children, grades K-12
- Strong verbal communication skills
- Ability to work outdoors in a variety of weather conditions
- Fluency in languages other than English a plus

2. Weekend Programming Volunteers

Beginning May 27th, 2017, the Teaching Garden will be open to the public every Saturday and Sunday 12-4pm. Visitors are invited to walk around the garden, participate in cooking demos, and do scavenger hunts with their children. Weekend volunteers help facilitate these activities and enforce garden rules (like no harvesting without permission).

Responsibilities include: set up and break down of info table and farm stand (may include some heavy lifting), educate the public about the Teaching Garden and GrowNYC, answer visitor questions, lead cooking demos using produce from the garden, lead kid-friendly activities such as scavenger hunts, and ensure the safety of plants and people in the garden.

Ideal Qualifications:

- High school graduate (over 18 years old)
- Interest in food, sustainability, the environment, food justice, and urban farming
- Experience in public education, working with children, and/or gardening
- Strong verbal communication skills

- Ability to work outdoors in a variety of weather conditions
- Fluency in languages other than English a plus

3. Garden Maintenance Volunteers

Throughout the 2017 season, the Teaching Garden seeks volunteers to assist with general garden maintenance. Prior gardening experience is preferred, but not required if volunteers have an eagerness to learn and willingness to get their hands dirty. The 2017 gardening season runs early April through mid-November, and garden maintenance volunteers will work either Mondays or Fridays for 3-4 hours between 9am and 3:30pm.

Responsibilities may include: weeding, watering, mulching, planting, seeding, harvesting, amending soil, building beds, irrigation maintenance, pest management, pruning, cleaning and organizing tools, shed, and hoop house, and basic construction.

Ideal Qualifications:

- High school graduate (over 18 years old)
- Strong interest in gardening and urban farming
- Ability to lift and carry heavy items and operate garden tools like wheelbarrows, hoes and shovels
- Ability and willingness to work outdoors in a variety of weather conditions

Please submit a resume and cover letter to spost@grownyc.org. Please be sure to include volunteer position (“School Field Trip Volunteer”, “Weekend Volunteer”, or “Garden Maintenance Volunteer”) in the subject line. Also please include the day(s) and hours you are available to volunteer in your cover letter or the body of your email.