



For Immediate Release: Wed., Jan. 11, 2017

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Passionate Volunteers Enrich Educational Programs at Pittsburgh Museums

Science education thrives with the helping hands of local volunteers

Pittsburgh, Pa. — [Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens](#) is well-known for beautiful gardens, seasonal flower shows, pioneering sustainability initiatives, informative educational programs and community outreach. None of this work, however, would be possible without our dedicated volunteers. From gardeners and greeters to docents and educators, Phipps volunteers work in numerous positions throughout the Conservatory and bring invaluable skills and energy to all they do. Phipps is excited to announce a brand new volunteer position in search of enthusiastic trainees: the Garden Guide.

Garden Guides will work in conjunction with Phipps' science education programs, leading tours of the Conservatory specifically for children grades K – 5. Passionate candidates who train for this position will focus specifically on how to best connect young visitors to Phipps and make the Conservatory accessible to a younger audience. Equipped with training and tips from Conservatory staff and seasoned docents, Garden Guides will enrich youngsters' experiences by opening their eyes to the full magic of the gardens.

Phipps extends a warm invitation to all community members in search of educational volunteer opportunities to get involved in the program. "Previous botanical knowledge is not required," says Sophie Stern, volunteer coordinator. "If you are enthusiastic, enjoy working with children and want to learn and spend time in a beautiful place, the Garden Guide position could be a perfect fit!"

Stern says that as the face of Phipps to so many visitors, docents and guides are what tour groups often remember most from their visits to the gardens. "The knowledge and personality that guides bring to the overall visitor experience are invaluable," she says. "Those who train to be Garden Guides can expect to join a supportive community of seasoned guides, learn tips and tricks to lead tours specifically for a younger audience, and have a whole lot of fun!"

Those interested in getting involved are encouraged to contact Volunteer Coordinator Sophie Stern at sstern@phipps.conservatory.org or 412/622-6915, ext. 6958.

Every Garden Guide must receive an Act 33 (Child Abuse) and Act 34 (Criminal History) clearance. You can read more about the position requirements and fill out a volunteer application at www.phipps.conservatory.org/volunteer.

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About Phipps: Founded in 1893, Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in Pittsburgh, Pa. is a green leader among public gardens with a mission to inspire and educate all with the beauty and importance of plants; to advance sustainability and promote human and environmental well-being through action and research; and to celebrate its historic glasshouse. Learn more: phipps.conservatory.org.

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