Sunken Gardens Volunteer Opportunities

Sunken Gardens Mission Statement
To preserve and enhance historic Sunken Gardens and to provide enjoyment and unique opportunities for the study of a tropical rainforest. Through diverse educational, horticultural, and cultural experiences.

About Sunken Gardens
Sunken Gardens is a delightful contrast to the fast-paced world outside its historic vine covered walls. The garden has been a historic, world-renowned attraction in St. Petersburg since 1935. Its mixture of tropical flowers and foliage, native plants, and wildlife has entranced visitors for decades.

What Can I Do?
You can become a valuable asset to Sunken Gardens by volunteering your time on an ongoing basis or for a one-time event. Your assistance can help us provide more opportunities for our community to enjoy this valuable resource. Your efforts will increase the attraction’s impact on the community through our horticultural and environmental programs and events.

How Will I Benefit?
Sunken Gardens will continue to grow and change for many years, and you can be a part of this exciting process. Meet new friends, participate in unique projects, and gain knowledge from your volunteer efforts as well as participate in fun activities just for volunteers.

What Do I Need to Know?
You simply need a love of nature and a willingness to learn. Some positions require specific training and time commitments. Potential docents will benefit from a training course and need not currently be experts in horticulture, though a basic understanding of tropical plants is helpful.

How Do I Apply?
Please complete and submit the Volunteer Application Form in its entirety, including an email address. Applicants will be contacted within one week of submission. Volunteer positions are limited and potential volunteers will be interviewed to determine possible placement prior to any training.

DOCENT TRAINING (2019)
September 23-27, 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (* Attendance during all five days is required, barring a special exception*)

Docent training spans Sunken Gardens’ history, horticulture and animal information, docent best-practices, role-playing, and tour shadowing to provide a complete learning experience which prepares docents to lead tours with confidence. Training also requires spending a minimum of 10 hours of your own time outside of class getting familiar with the gardens, reviewing class information, shadowing tours, and studying reading materials. Once trained, docents will lead the volunteer coordinator through the Gardens before becoming an official docent. All docents are asked to lead at least two hour-long tours per month for groups of 10 – 25 people and may do so during a time that is convenient for them. Continuing education/training is also required a few times throughout each year.

A $35 non-refundable docent training fee will be processed upon volunteer approval pending an interview with the Volunteer Coordinator. Space is limited. Complete and submit a volunteer application. Return your application by Sept. 16, 2019 to Volunteer Coordinator, Jennifer Tyson, at jennifer.tyson@stpete.org, via mail to 1825 4th St. N, St. Petersburg, FL, or drop off with a cashier at Sunken Gardens. *Deadline to submit applications for docent training is Sept. 16, 2019.*
SUNKEN GARDENS
VOLUNTEER APPLICATION FORM
*(Please fill in all information requested)*

Today's Date: ________________________________________________________
Name: ______________________________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip code: ___________________________________________________
Home/cell phone number: _______________________________________________
Email (required): ______________________________________________________
Emergency contact name: _______________________________________________
Emergency contact phone number:________________________________________
Date of Birth (if under age 18):_________________________________________

Volunteer Opportunities in Which You Are Interested
Please check all that apply:

☐ Docent ................. Leads garden tours
☐ Animal Care ............ Assists with cleaning bird enclosures one morning per week
☐ Garden Assistant ........ Planting, weeding, trimming, etc. (Wednesday mornings)
☐ Event Assistant .......... Various work at garden festivals, etc.
☐ Greeter .................. Directs visitors on weekends, during weddings, festivals, etc.
☐ Speakers Bureau .......... Off site talks (Requires docent training)
☐ Children’s Activities...... Kids tours, crafts, hands-on activities
☐ Gift Shop Attendant...... Assists with merchandising, etc.

Volunteer information
Please rate your level of understanding of the following:
1. Knowledge of Florida gardening  0   1   2   3   4   5
2. Knowledge of sustainable gardening practices (native plants, etc.) 0   1   2   3   4   5
3. Knowledge of avian care  0   1   2   3   4   5
4. Which of your applicable skills or interests will make you an asset to our team? Please explain: __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

5. Please list any previous volunteer experience:
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

6. Why are you interested in volunteering at Sunken Gardens?________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
7. Do you have knowledge/experience in (check all that apply):
   - Guest relations
   - Public speaking
   - Working with children
   - Physical garden labor (weeding, mulching, trimming, etc.)

8. Are you comfortable working in Florida’s varied weather conditions (heat, humidity, rain, etc.)

9. Are you comfortable working in a fast paced environment?

10. Can you adapt to changing work conditions?

11. Do you feel you would be a good representative of the Gardens and the City of St. Petersburg?

12. Are you limited to seasonal availability (seasonal resident, summer break, etc.)?

Please fill in your availability for each day here (morning, afternoon, evening):

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
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Additional notes

Please submit your form to Jennifer Tyson, Volunteer Coordinator, via the cashier desk, mail, fax, or email:

Sunken Gardens
1825 4th Street N.
St. Petersburg, FL, 33704
Direct: 551-3149, Fax: 551-3101, jennifer.tyson@stpete.org

Staff notes: ____________________________________________________________

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