

# 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](mailto:jennifer.tyson@stpete.org), via mail to 1825 4<sup>th</sup> 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):**

Monday	
Tuesday	
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	
Saturday	
Sunday	
Additional notes	

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

Sunken Gardens  
1825 4<sup>th</sup> Street N.  
St. Petersburg, FL, 33704  
Direct: 551-3149, Fax: 551-3101, [jennifer.tyson@stpete.org](mailto:jennifer.tyson@stpete.org)

Staff notes: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
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