

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN
Institutional Advancement Division

Volunteer Program Overview

Garden volunteers are special people. 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 the Garden. We recognize that our volunteers provide the Garden with a resource 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.

The Garden's vital volunteer community includes over 1,880 volunteers. These supporters donated over 151,600 hours to the Garden in 2009, the equivalent of 78 full-time staff. Garden volunteers must be a minimum of 14 years of age and must complete a short volunteer application form.

Garden policy is to place volunteers in their area of interest, if there is a job opening and if the volunteer possesses the minimum qualifications. In the event that there are no current openings in a volunteer's areas of interest, the Garden retains applications in an active file for one year.

Volunteer opportunities are available in the following areas: Horticulture, Education, Science and Conservation, Special Events, Retail, and Visitors Services. Volunteers are needed and welcome at the Missouri Botanical Garden, the Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House, and Shaw Nature Reserve. Leadership volunteers are also key to the Garden's mission and development and serve in many capacities.

The Garden's strategic plan outlines the importance of training, retaining, and appreciating a dedicated and talented volunteer force.

The Garden has a powerful and relevant mission. Our ability to fulfill that mission depends on the vision, knowledge and drive of our employees, and the volunteer corps of Board leaders, friends, and partners who generously donate their time and talents to our endeavors. To remain a leadership institution and smoothly navigate the period of transition to a new president, we must continue to attract and retain highly qualified people, motivate them, and stimulate their continuous skill development. Bolstering staff leadership and teamwork skills is particularly important to the Garden's healthy future. We must also ensure that our human resource systems operate fairly, competently, and efficiently. Bringing the Garden's pay scale into alignment with relevant markets and local benchmarks is imperative, as is achieving greater diversity in our workforce and volunteer groups, including the Garden's Board of Trustees. We will maintain the Garden's reputation as an outstanding place to work and to volunteer.

—*Missouri Botanical Garden Strategic Plan, 2008–2014, Goal Six*

For more information on the Garden's volunteer programs, please contact the Volunteer Program Management Office at (314) 577-5187 or via e-mail at volunteer@mobot.org.