Get Involved! Volunteer at Matthaei-Nichols

Our volunteer program offers diverse opportunities to learn, connect, and give back. As a volunteer, you’ll develop new skills while supporting our mission of education and stewardship through hands-on service. We welcome new volunteers to join us in every season at the Arb & Gardens. Pre-registration required for all trainings. Contact the Volunteer Coordinator for more information: 734.647.8528.

Visit our website for more information: mbgna.umich.edu

 Visitor Engagement – Ambassador Trainings (preregistration required)

Garden Ambassador Training
Sat., April 22, 9 am–4 pm
Training provides an introduction to the Visitor Engagement department, best practices for working with the public, and an overview of the most popular points of interest in the display gardens, Gaffield Children’s Garden and beyond. We seek volunteers with a love of learning and interest in working with a diverse population of visitors, including children and families. Monthly garden tours/talks are led by our horticulturists throughout the season. Shifts are available daily, May–October.

Peony Ambassador Training
Tues., April 25, 6–7:30 pm, Arb/Reader Center
Learn more about the largest public collection of heirloom herbaceous peony cultivars in North America. Ambassadors greet and guide visitors to points of interest in the peony garden during peak bloom time. The training session includes an overview of the peony collection history, horticultural basics and tips for working with the public. Ideal volunteers will have a genuine interest in the collection and an ability to work independently with a diverse array of visitors. Evening and weekend shifts available late May/early June.

Wow! Our volunteers work an impressive number of hours each year.

506 volunteers logged hours with our student programs (Cultivating Community, Campus Farm, Wild About Nature) for a total of 1,176 hours
344 regular volunteers logged nearly 12,460 hours of service!
1,020 volunteers (U-M students, community and corporate, private and public) helped with group workdays (a total of 3,545 hours!)

Grand Total: 1,870 Volunteers, 17,679 Hours!

Fall 2016 Volunteer Appreciation Gathering
A huge thank you to our volunteers and staff in celebration of another abundant year of volunteer contributions!

From left: Volunteers gather October 20 at Matthaei for the annual volunteer recognition event; floral centerpieces designed by Matthaei horticulturist Adrienne O’Brien graced the tables; the dessert board groaned under the weight of all the sweet treats brought by Matthaei-Nichols staff.