



Japanese Garden Volunteer

Position Description

Purpose of Volunteer Service: To assist in the maintenance and protection of the Japanese Garden and Centennial Garden at the Fabyan Forest Preserve.

Supervisors: Horticulturist, Preservation Partners of the Fox Valley, Volunteer Coordinator

Typical Assignment: Assist the Horticulturist with installing new plant material in garden beds. Weed and clean garden beds, remove dead blooms and branches. Maintain plant identification tags and signs. Evaluate and monitor plants within the garden. Rake paths, sweep bridges and Teahouse porch and wash Teahouse windows.

Qualifications/Skills:

- Interest in gardening and working outdoors.
- Willingness to get hands dirty.
- Willingness to learn and share information with staff, other volunteers and the public.
- Flexibility and ability to adapt to changing weather conditions and schedules.
- Ability to work as a team with staff and other volunteers.
- Physical ability to bend, kneel and perform light digging and lifting.
- Ability to work independently on weekends.



Expectations:

- Commit to 4-8 hours a month (weekday or weekend).
- Become familiar with the Fabyan Forest Preserve and share knowledge with the general public.
- Arrive promptly to discuss and coordinate work plans with the Horticulturist (during the week).
- Keep track of your hours and report them to the Volunteer Coordinator each month.
- Return all tools to the proper area.
- Notify staff if you are unable to meet a scheduled commitment.
- Represent the District in a warm professional manner.
- Provide ideas and suggestions for the improvement of the volunteer program and/or your volunteer position.

Training:

Volunteers are required to attend the *Orientation to the District and Kane County* and will receive hands-on training at the Japanese Garden. Additional education classes are listed in the quarterly newsletter, *The Tree Line*, which can be viewed online at <http://www.kaneforest.com/publications/treeLine.pdf>. Continuing education sessions specifically for volunteers are offered throughout the year as time permits.