

**Position/Title:** Learning Gardens EcoKidz Volunteer Docent (UNPAID)  
**Start Date:** September 10, 2019  
**Application Deadline:** August 31, 2019  
**Contact:** Send resume and completed form to [srose@cityparksfoundation.org](mailto:srose@cityparksfoundation.org)

### **ABOUT CITY PARKS FOUNDATION**

City Parks Foundation (CPF) is the only independent, nonprofit organization whose mission is to offer programs in public parks throughout the five boroughs of New York City. We are dedicated to invigorating and transforming parks into dynamic, vibrant centers of urban life through sports, arts, community development, and education programs for all New Yorkers. Our programs and community building initiatives -- located in more than 350 parks, recreation centers, and public schools across New York City -- reach 425,000 people each year. Our ethos is simple: we believe thriving parks mean thriving communities.

- We connect youngsters to nature in the urban environment with education programs that provide learning experiences through classroom and hands-on activities in parks, urban forests, coastal areas, gardens, and recreation centers.
- We present the largest free, outdoor performing arts festival in NYC through SummerStage, presenting artists of the highest quality across multiple disciplines and genres, and marionette puppet theater in all five boroughs with our Swedish Cottage Marionette Theatre and the roving PuppetMobile.
- Partnerships for Parks, a public-private program of City Parks Foundation and NYC Parks, supports and champions a growing network of leaders who care and advocate for the transformation of their neighborhood parks.
- Free golf, tennis, track & field, soccer, and fitness programs bring high-quality instruction and equipment into areas where few organized athletic opportunities exist. We offer leveled training, year-round scholarship coaching, and special pro events.

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### **POSITION SUMMARY**

*Learning Gardens* brings year-round, field- and school-based garden science learning to NYC schoolchildren and community members. Our gardens are outdoor classrooms that provide vibrant green space in some of New York City's most densely populated neighborhoods. Operating four community gardens across three boroughs, CPF presents engaging interdisciplinary lessons to expand student learning around urban ecology, horticulture, soil science, and sustainable urban food systems. Students in 2nd – 8<sup>th</sup> grade and their teachers receive resource materials, curricula, and tools to enhance their understanding of ecosystem services and address the unique challenges of growing food in an urban environment. High School interns are trained in garden instruction and horticultural techniques throughout the spring and then work alongside Learning Gardens staff throughout the summer.

Each week from April through November, children and their families participate in drop-in workshops at Abib Newborn Learning Gardens site located in Brownsville, Brooklyn. The prospective docents will participate in a docent training course designed to prepare individuals to lead sensory tours and assist with programs designed for children and family groups. Docents will learn about the variety of vegetables, native plants,

herbs and flowers. In addition, they will become familiar with techniques for presenting educational programs to children.

This a great position for retired and future teachers, college-aged volunteers who enjoy working with children, and those who love to share their passions with others.

Time Commitment: 3-4 regularly scheduled four-hour (AFTERSCHOOL & SUMMER) shifts per month equating to approximately 75 - 95 service hours annually. Garden Docents conduct regularly scheduled Garden tours throughout the spring and fall seasons (April through June and September through November equating to approximately 22 weeks annually). They also conduct specially scheduled workshops and special events in the garden.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

- Co-conducting garden tours and activities for groups of up to 25, 9-12 year old children participating in workshops.
- Help track attendance and evaluate program impact, outcomes and participants' progress.
- Assist with very occasional CPF programs/events on an assigned or as needed basis.
- Availability once a week for 4-5 hours for programs, once every two weeks for training/evaluations.
- Submit a bi-weekly availability email to the LG Program Manager in a timely fashion to facilitate the preparation of the ECO KIDZ workshop schedule.
- Attend regular volunteer continuing education sessions and any scheduled mandatory volunteer training sessions.
- Honor the time commitment requested of docents.
- One-two references.

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

*You do not have to be a gardening or farming expert in any way to participate. Training will be provided. Applicants should, however, possess the following qualifications:*

- A dynamic and engaging teaching presence and exceptional communication skills.
- Interest in gardening, food justice, local foodways, and agroecology.
- Passion for outdoor science education -- must feel comfortable teaching and interacting with children and families.
- Fluent English is required; Proficiency in additional languages is a plus.
- Ability to work both independently and as part of a team is essential.
- Willingness to work outdoors in hot and/or inclement weather.

### **CONTACT**

For prompt consideration, please email [srose@cityparksfoundation.org](mailto:srose@cityparksfoundation.org) to receive the docent interest form. Send the completed form and your resume to the same email address, noting "Learning Gardens EcoKidz Docent Application" in the subject line.

Thank you for your interest in City Parks Foundation, an equal opportunity employer. Only potential candidates will be contacted. No calls, please.