

# **Children's Garden Program**

## **Counselor in Training (CIT)**

### **Job Description**

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Thank you for your interest in becoming a Counselor in Training! CIT's have the unique opportunity to be mentors who demonstrate: a positive attitude, strong work ethic, social and environmental respect, responsibility in the garden, and many other characteristics the Arboretum staff and volunteers model for program participants. Youth applicants must be 12-17 years of age and receive written permission from a legal parent or guardian. **Please note, CIT's will only be allowed to volunteer with Children's Garden groups that are younger than the CIT themselves.**

#### **Preferred Qualifications**

- Are at least 12 years old as of May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018
- Enjoy contributing ideas and working on special projects
- Enjoy gardening and nature related education and exploration
- Are willing to work with children outdoors in a wide range of weather conditions
- Demonstrated ability to follow directions, build relationships, and work well with others
- Have completed 2 years in the Children's Garden program or have other gardening experience
- Ability to maintain a positive attitude and contribute to an fun, enjoyable learning environment

#### **Responsibilities & Expectations**

- Assist garden leaders in set-up and tear-down before and after programming
- Model appropriate behavior to promote a safe and enjoyable learning environment
- Participate in all programming activities and maintain a positive attitude throughout
- Motivate, encourage, and assist gardeners with Children's Garden programming activities
- Provide feedback after programming in order to improve the Children's Garden experience
- Contribute to a welcoming environment by building relationships with program participants
- Be an Arboretum ambassador who demonstrates respect for the physical and social environment

#### **CIT Commitment Expectations**

CIT's will be expected to commit to a minimum of one morning or afternoon per week between mid-June and mid-August. CIT's are also expected to assist with their respective Children's Garden group's planting days as well as the end of summer Children's Garden Harvest Fair picnic. CIT's will be expected to arrive ½ hour before programming begins to help set up and stay ½ hour after programming ends in order to help clean up and provide feedback. In an effort to provide a consistent mentoring program for Children's Garden participants, CIT applicants are strongly encouraged to honestly assess their ability to commit for the entirety of the program dates and times. We ask that you miss no more than two programming days over the course of the summer. *All planting days and programming dates are listed on the Arboretum's website: <http://www.arboretum.umn.edu/childrensgarden.aspx>*

#### **With Questions**

Please contact: Ian Williams, Children's Garden Program Coordinator  
Telephone: (612) 301-3480  
Email: [iwilliam@umn.edu](mailto:iwilliam@umn.edu)