

Washington Park Arboretum Tour Guide

Responsible to: Education Coordinator

Tour Guide Definition: Guides lead 90-minute walking tours of the Arboretum introducing visitors to WPA history, mission and collections.

Examples of Possible Duties:

1. Lead tours focusing on a specific theme: Seasonal Interest, Native plants & Ethnobotany, Wetland Ecology of Foster Island.
2. Lead informal weekend walks on first and third Sundays.
3. Lead special tours such as van tours of Arboretum Drive East.

Responsibilities:

1. Prepare for and lead scheduled tours.
2. Arrive on time for scheduled shifts.
3. Act professionally in all public contacts.
4. Follow policies of UW Botanic Gardens as outlined in the Volunteer Handbook.
5. Record volunteer hours in logbook and wear name tag for scheduled shifts.

Minimum Requirements:

1. Attend guide training programs as offered by UWBG-WPA Education and Outreach.
2. Commit to 2 shifts per month for at least six months to one year.
3. Physical ability and stamina to lead groups over rough terrain.
4. Willingness to work outdoors in variable weather conditions.
5. Enjoy working with the public.
6. Excellent interpretive skills.
7. Promptness and a willingness to be flexible based on needs of tour group.

Benefits:

1. 1. Have fun!
 - Spend your time outside and meet new people.
 - Work with committed, passionate staff and other volunteers.
2. Professional Development!
 - Gain experience in public presentation and interpretation.
 - Learn about the diverse plants and wildlife habitats of the Arboretum and Pacific Northwest.
3. Receive *Camas Quarterly* (UWBG newsletter) and vouchers towards public classes.
4. Invitations to UWBG volunteer appreciation events, enrichments, and seasonal field trips.

Work site:

Arboretum guides work mainly from the Donald G. Graham Visitors Center located at the North end of the Arboretum. Most tours depart from the lobby of the visitor center. All tours take place on the grounds of the Washington Park Arboretum.