

## *Washington Park Arboretum Saplings School Program Guide*

**Responsible to:** Education Coordinator

**Saplings School Program Guide Definition:** Guides lead 90-minute hands-on, outdoor education programs for K-8 youth and school groups.

1. Lead programs on a variety of themes including life cycle of plants, native plants and wetland ecology for small groups of students (15 students or less) in grades K-8.
2. Programs are held M-F, 10:00—11:30 a.m. and 12:15 –1:45 p.m. during the school year. Guides arrive at least 30 minutes prior to program start.

**Responsibilities:**

1. Prepare for and lead scheduled school programs.
2. Arrive on time for scheduled shifts.
3. Serve as a role model for environmental stewardship.
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 leading one program per week, per season.
3. Physical ability and stamina to lead groups over semi-rough terrain and carry a 5-10 pound backpack.
4. Willingness to work outdoors in variable weather conditions.
5. Experience and desire to work with elementary school students.
6. Promptness and willingness to be flexible based on needs of teacher and/or school group.

**Benefits:**

1. Have fun!
  - Spend time outside with children 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 quarterly UWBG newsletters and vouchers towards public classes.
4. Invitations to UWBG volunteer appreciation events, enrichments, and seasonal field trips.

**Work site:**

Saplings guides work mainly from the Donald G. Graham Visitors Center located at the North end of the Arboretum. All programs take place on the grounds of the Washington Park Arboretum.