

Volunteer Opportunities at Ladew Gardens

Field Trips:

Contact: Sheryl Pedrick at spedrick@ladewgardens.com

Train to teach environmental education to preschool to elementary aged children in the gardens and/or Nature Walk trail. Present topics including seeds and flowers, trees, signs of the season and more.

Requirements:

- Minimum of 16 years of age
- Required to get fingerprinted for MD State and FBI Background Check (fee is reimbursed by Ladew)
- Enthusiasm for and experience in working with children in pre-K through 5th grades and/or middle school.
- Train to lead pre-K through 5th grade students in environmental education programs.
- Lead 8-12 children on walking tours of the gardens and/or Nature Walk trail.
- Background in or interest in learning about topics in natural history, botany, horticulture, biology, or environmental studies
- Good communication skills
- Ability to walk for up to 1 ½ hours at a time.
- During your first training season, commit to lead a minimum of 2 school programs.
- Time commitment is flexible: lead anywhere from once a month to once a week or more (April, May, September, October and possibly July & August)
- Observation by education staff may be required.

Camp:

Contact: Sheryl Pedrick at spedrick@ladewgardens.com

Assist paid educators with a morning or full day of activities, including hikes, outdoor games, crafts, puppet show, story time, etc.

Requirements:

- Minimum of 14 years of age
- Required to get fingerprinted for MD State and FBI Background Check (fee is reimbursed by Ladew)
- Time Commitment: would prefer that volunteers commit to 2 to 5 days in a camp week.
- Ability to walk for up to 1 ½ hours at a time, often in heat of summer.
- Assist with camp set up; arrive 30 minutes before camp starts each day; depending on the week, could be a 4-hour day or a 6-hour day.
- Assist clean up each day; stay 30 minutes after camp ends each day.
- Assist with all activities, including lessons, indoor/outdoor games and arts & craft activities.
- perform puppet shows or read for story time, if interested
- supervise bathroom breaks and snack/lunchtimes.

Butterfly House Docenting:

Contact: Sara Borowy at sborowy@ladewagrdens.com

Teach visitors to our Butterfly House about butterflies and the plants they depend on. Help supervise and act as house host/docent during public viewing times.

Requirements:

- Minimum age 14
- Attend training sessions to learn about our butterfly focus species and their life cycles.
- Training is typically in May (online videos) and June (in person). Both video training and in-person training are required for new volunteers.
- Keep up with weekly informational emails, particularly prior to upcoming docent commitments.
- Shadow veteran docents prior to being a house docent. (Typically, twice is enough)
- Observe eggs, caterpillars, chrysalides, and butterflies in the house.
- Observe and become familiar with plants in the Butterfly House, particularly host and nectar plants.
- Use the Volunteer Hub online platform to schedule your docent sessions.

Nature Walk Maintenance:

Contact: Caroline Graf at cgraf@ladewgardens.com

Assist with weeding and maintaining the 1-mile trail and fill bird feeders as needed. This position requires training before you can start volunteering. Please contact Caroline Graf for additional information.

Maple Magic:

Contact: Sheryl Pedrick at spedrick@ladewgardens.com

Train to teach the general public (all ages) about maple sugaring in the wintertime. Roles include Tour Guide, Fire Pit/Sap Boiling Leader, Syrup Taste Testing Station Leader.

Requirements:

- Minimum of 16 years of age
- Attend a 3-hour training session in early February.
- Tour Guide: ability to share sugaring info and walk on Nature Walk trail for up to 1 ½ hour; trail can be muddy and/or icy.
- Fire Pit Leader: ability to safely tend a fire, boil sap and share boiling facts outdoors for up to 4 hours.
- Syrup Taste Testing Station Leader: ability to share info about sap and syrup outdoors for up to 4 hours or more w/a co-volunteer.

Art Show Sales:

Contact: Rachele Fowler at rfowler@ladewgardens.com

Volunteers are responsible for ensuring artwork is not tampered with and to answer questions about the artists (notes provided). Sales will be handled through the Gift Shop or Ladew staff. Buyers will leave the artwork at the show until the end date and will return for pick up following the closure of the art show. Volunteers will be stationed in the Gallery with seating, air conditioning, and music. Volunteers may also bring books to read while monitoring.

Garden Maintenance:

Contact: Emily Hunter at ehunter@ladewgardens.com

Join our Horticulture Staff as they maintain the Gardens to keep them looking perfectly delightful for our wonderful visitors to enjoy! Tools, gloves, and necessary equipment are provided.

Special Events:

Contact: Sara Borowy at sborowy@ladewgardens.com

Help Ladew by participating in our special events and fundraisers including: Garden Festival, Garden Glow, a Ladew Christmas, and our "Come Inside" events. All events have different shift types available. For more information, please contact the volunteer coordinator.

Visitor Services (House and Garden Docents):

Contact: Barbara Barnoff at bbarnoff@ladewgardens.com

House Docent – Volunteers are needed to lead tour groups. Docents identify significant objects in each room and add stories about Mr. Ladew's talent, wit and charm. Volunteers interested in becoming a docent will need to attend a docent training session, which will prepare them to give guided tours.

Garden Docent – Some of our tour groups prefer docent led tours of the Gardens. Volunteers interested in becoming a docent will need to attend a docent training session, which will prepare them to give guided tours. An extensive knowledge of plants is helpful, but not necessary.