



Volunteer Type: Edible Schoolyard Pittsburgh Lesson Volunteer

Organization Description: Grow Pittsburgh was established in 2005. The organization incorporated as a nonprofit organization in 2008 after four successful programs had been established: *Braddock Farms*, a social enterprise that raises vegetables for local restaurants and provides jobs and locally grown food for Braddock residents; *Edible Schoolyard Pittsburgh*, an elementary school gardening and cooking program that uses the seed to table model to educate children about where their food comes from through physical gardens; *The Frick Project*, a greenhouse and garden operation that grows plant starts for local garden initiatives as well as produce for restaurant sales; and *The Summer Intern* program that uses agriculture as a platform for leadership skill development and environmental education. In 2010, the organization launched *City Growers*. This initiative is meant to encourage community vegetable gardening by providing technical assistance in the set up of gardens on vacant land in the city.

Program Description: Edible Schoolyard Pittsburgh, started in 2007, is partnered with 5 local Pittsburgh elementary schools – considered our “Flagship Schools”. Our Garden Educators teach 4 weekly garden and cooking lessons with students during the school year – either in the garden or the classroom depending on the lesson and the season. Our lessons are interdisciplinary, hands-on, and done in small groups whenever possible. Volunteers are vital to the success and vibrancy of our programming.

Volunteer Role Overview: Edible Schoolyard Pittsburgh volunteers will support the Garden Educator before, during and/or after classroom lessons at our partner schools. Volunteer activities will include: preparing garden tools for stations, passing out seeds or other materials to students during lessons, helping to slice up fresh produce for tasting, leading one small group during the lesson and helping to clean up after lesson’s end. Before the lesson, the volunteer will meet with the Garden Educator at the school office to file clearances with school secretary and learn what his/her responsibilities will be during the time with students.

Volunteer Commitment: We find that dependability among our volunteers greatly enhances the ability of our Garden Educators to plan and carry out successful lessons. We request that our Edible Schoolyard Lesson Volunteers commit to attending two classes per week for at least 9 weeks.

Requirements:

- Interest in Grow Pittsburgh’s mission and environmental/health education with elementary students
- Ability to transport yourself to the schools
- Available for 2 classes per week for at least 9 weeks. Our classes take place during the school day September-June.

- Volunteers are responsible for gaining clearances. As of August 25th, 2015, fees for the Child Abuse Certification and the PA State Criminal Record Check will be waived for volunteers working with children. Volunteers must have *started the process* for all clearances below before volunteering with ESY Pittsburgh.
- ✓ **Child Abuse Certification:** *Required to volunteer.* Obtained online free after Aug 25th via: <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home>
- ✓ **PA State Criminal History Report:** *Required to volunteer.* Obtained online free after Aug 25th via: <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home>
- ✓ **FBI Criminal History Record:** *Only required if you have lived outside of PA in the past 10 years.* File under the Dept. of Education. Once on this site: www.pa.cogentid.com/index_pdeNew.htm click “Register Online” to get started. You will need to be fingerprinted at a ‘Cogent’ shop (there’s one in the Oakland UPS store) as the final step of the process.

Our schools are located in the Squirrel Hill, Homewood, Friendship, Highland Park and East Liberty communities of Pittsburgh.

***Note:** We hope to accommodate your schedule and location preference by allowing you your choice of school and day of the week, when possible.

To Volunteer:

1. Begin completing all required clearances (See above).
2. Email us at esy@growpittsburgh.org stating interest in becoming an ESY Lesson Volunteer. Please reference that you have read and are comfortable with the commitments outlined here in the ESY Lesson Volunteer Description. We can address any questions you may have and, from there, hold a Volunteer Orientation and set you up with one of our Garden Educators.

More information about Grow Pittsburgh can be found at www.growpittsburgh.org . Information about Edible Schoolyard Pittsburgh can be found at www.edibleschoolyardpgh.org . Thank you for your interest in contributing to real food education in Pittsburgh!