



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, now in its 7th year, is partnered with 6 local Pittsburgh elementary schools. Our Garden Educators teach weekly garden and cooking lessons with students – 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 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, though we understand that there may be some variability in volunteer schedules and are happy to work with you on this. We request that our Edible Schoolyard Volunteers commit to attending two classes per week for a school quarter.

Requirements:

- Interest in Grow Pittsburgh's mission

- Interest in environmental/health education with elementary students
- Ability to transport yourself to the schools
- Clearances Completed: FBI Criminal Record and PA Child Abuse History.
Volunteers are responsible for covering clearance costs (\$10 each). This process typically takes 2-4 weeks.

Click here for link to clearances:

http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/findaform/childabusehistoryclearanceforms/S_001087

Our schools are located in the Squirrel Hill, Homewood, Friendship, Highland Park, East Liberty and Regent Square 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.

Benefits of Volunteering with Edible Schoolyard Pittsburgh:

Volunteering in the classrooms and gardens at local Pittsburgh elementary schools gives volunteers first-hand experience of the power and excitement of food education in our local community. Volunteers often come away from a lesson feeling as though they made a positive difference in the classroom or garden, whether they encouraged a student to taste a new vegetable or helped them to plant their first seed. Your time and energy can help Pittsburgh's next generation to think about food in a whole new way.

To Volunteer:

1. Complete Clearances (See above)
2. Complete the [Volunteer Form](#) on our website.
3. Email us at esy@growpittsburgh.org stating interest in volunteering. We will reply to the email and set up a time to meet you to talk about the expectations (and rewards!) of volunteering with the program. We will also use this time to address any questions you may have. From there, we will go forward with setting you up with a Garden Educator in one of our schools!

More information about Grow Pittsburgh can be found at www.growpittsburgh.org

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