

Native Plant Gardens Steward

Zenger Farm, Portland Oregon

Applications accepted on a rolling basis

Position Type: Part-time, unpaid volunteer



ZENGER FARM is a 501(c)(3) non-profit working urban farm that models, promotes and educates about sustainable food systems, environmental stewardship, community development and access to good food for all.

Native Plant Gardens Stewards will help maintain the natural areas at Zenger Farm, which are planted with native plants from the Portland area. Onsite natural areas include: the **Bioswale** adjacent to the parking area, **Pollinator Hedgerow** north of the farm fields that support honeybees and native pollinators, **Stormwater Basins** north and northeast of the new Urban Grange building, **Landscape plantings** along the front (south) of the property in front of the Urban Grange, **Border plantings** west of the Urban Grange and orchard, and the **Wetland Buffer** south of the 10-acre wetland. Volunteers could work with other Native Plant Gardens Stewards and/or a Restoration Biologist, and with volunteer groups who come for service learning, or school and Home School groups, so children or adult volunteer groups. **Field Trips** for preschool through adult groups, the **Urban Farm Home School Program** for 5-14 year olds, Volunteers will plant and maintain native plantings—weeding and watering, removing invasive plants to assist Zenger Farm in attaining **Backyard Habitat Certification**, and maintaining that certification with care of native plantings and keeping the invasive plants from re-establishing. Volunteers will also instruct and supervise volunteer groups (along with staff or volunteer restoration biologist); you may be assisting with identification of native and weedy plants, after your own training in these tasks. Volunteers will be an integral part of the Zenger Farm community, working as part of a team alongside staff and interns.

TIME COMMITMENT

- **Seasonal commitment of at least 3 months at a time**
- 5 to 20 hours a week; volunteers will need to establish a regular day of the week and timeframe for this position
- Be available on an occasional basis to assist with volunteer groups and classes who are working in the native planting areas
- Weekly time commitment and schedule will be discussed with each applicant to meet the needs of the Volunteer and Zenger Farm; most programs occur Monday through Friday in between 8am-5pm

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Assist with natural areas maintenance and facilitate planting and maintenance activities with youth and adults
- Assist with supervising natural area work activities with the Urban Farm Home School Program, Farm School, and Farm Camps, and adult volunteer groups
- Interact with participants and volunteers in an enthusiastic and friendly manner
- Maintain clear and open communication with Zenger Farm staff, interns and volunteers
- Special projects and other duties as assigned

QUALIFICATIONS

- Must enjoy working with children and adults
- Positive, can do attitude
- Ability to work in a farm/natural area setting, lift up to 25lbs, dig, and use hand tools
- Must pass a criminal background check

BENEFITS

- Farm fresh produce
- Opportunity to develop skills and experience in native plant care and identification, and sharing knowledge with others
- Learn and practice weed management techniques in the Pacific Northwest, and share knowledge with others

Zenger Farm provides equal employment opportunity without regard to race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, handicap, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity, in accordance with applicable federal laws.

- Work with a fun and dedicated team of staff, interns and volunteers in a lively and collaborative environment
- Spend time at a beautiful urban farm and in a diverse and culturally unique neighborhood

HOW TO APPLY

Submit a cover letter and resume with three work or school references via email to Program Assistant, Rob Cato at rob@zengerfarm.org. Cover letter should address your interest in environmental education, teaching, and/or gardening and your qualifications for this position. Also fill out our online volunteer application at <https://zengerfarm.secure.force.com/volunteers>. Interviews will be conducted as applications are received.