



TYLER ARBORETUM AMERICAN CHESTNUT ORCHARD VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTION

PURPOSE OF SERVICE: To support the arboretum's cooperation with The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) whose goal is to capture blight resistance from various sources to enable restoration of an American chestnut, while maintaining the American chestnut's unique characteristics. The purpose of Tyler's orchard is to preserve the American chestnut genome while producing seeds through open and controlled pollination for work in other parts of the state.

QUALIFICATIONS/SKILLS:

- Available to volunteer one-half day per week, most Thursday mornings, from 8 until noon, April or May through the beginning of October.
- Good health with physical dexterity, ability to bend and kneel, and tolerance for working outdoors during the growing season, but seldom on rainy days. Physical aspects of the work are occasionally demanding, such as moving and climbing orchard ladders during various times (flowering, pollination, and harvest activities).
- Some aspects of the work may be somewhat tedious (weeding and pruning).
- Willingness to work as part of a team and to accomplish assignments.
- Volunteers under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- Beneficial: an interest in and appreciation of the history and value of the American chestnut and a desire to learn about various aspects of the pathogen that caused the blight. Volunteers will need to learn about flower development and the process of natural and manually controlled pollination.

TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS: pruning, bagging flowers, hand pollinating, weeding, harvesting, collecting productivity metrics (tree diameter, seed set, nut count) and associated data logging, planting seedlings and watering new plantings.

EXPECTATIONS

- Signup using SignUpGenius and report as scheduled, usually 8 a.m. Notify the supervisor via email or text in advance if you are unable to keep your commitment and delete your sign up.
- Dress for the weather outdoors, in comfortable, serviceable, and presentable clothing. Bring **water**, a hat, gloves, sunglasses, and sunscreen; wear sturdy closed toe shoes.

- Treat all tools with care and learn proper techniques to use them. Return all tools and Arboretum property to the proper location, clean and ready for reuse.
- Become familiar with reading materials provided by the supervisors.
- Follow instructions from your supervisor. Ask what you need to know to complete your assignments. Communicate openly with your supervisor to build productive working relationships. Be sure to mention physical limitations and safety concerns.
- Plan to take a break with fellow workers to share common interests and build a working team.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT:

- Required annually: Volunteer Safety Training covering tools, dress code, personal protective equipment, vehicle requirements and ladder safety. Volunteers will sign and date their attendance at each training session (minimally annually).
- In order to be aware of safety measures and the work conditions that may be encountered as you perform various tasks, volunteers are to be familiar with the details under 'Safety While Volunteering' section of the Volunteer Handbook.
- Volunteers learn through hands-on experience. The supervisor is responsible for volunteer training and orientation to the projects. Volunteers are encouraged to participate in informal learning opportunities during work outings. For those interested in additional experiences, occasional field trips or collecting expeditions may be available
- Sometimes, volunteers may be asked to assist with appropriate tours, classes, or workshops to further their education.

DATE REVISED: 2/13/2018, 3/10/20, 1/19/21, 12/15/23