

Shark Garden & New Start Community Garden Volunteer Policy



Welcome! This policy is intended to help everyone have a fun and safe volunteer experience with us!

Volunteer Requirements:

1. Every volunteer must sign in and out on our time sheets, which includes our liability waiver and photo release. If you feel strongly that you don't want your photo taken, please let us know at the start of your volunteer day.
2. Volunteers must follow all of the rules for the garden. The rules are posted by each entrance.
3. Volunteers under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult over the age of 25 at a ratio of one adult to 5 minors.
4. Volunteers under the age of 16 are not allowed to use gas powered tools, corded electrical tools, or ladders. Battery powered tools are allowed with one on one adult supervision and all necessary safety equipment in place.
5. Volunteers must wear safety equipment while using power tools, including safety glasses, gloves, and dust masks, as appropriate.
6. All volunteers must wear closed toed shoes in the garden while working with any tools, including a wheelbarrow.
7. Volunteers should follow instructions given by any garden leadership members present.

Volunteer Procedures:

1. Contact us to set up and schedule your volunteer time. Note that large groups need to schedule further in advance. We can handle groups up to 50 with enough notice, at some times of the year. A group of 5 to 15 is ideal.
2. Arrive on your volunteer day with closed toed shoes, appropriate clothing, and any snacks or drinks you will need. Bring any small hand tools and gloves you wish to use. We have some large hand tools and wheelbarrows available, but not always enough for very large groups.
3. Sign everyone in your group in on a timesheet and gather with one of our board members to get oriented and hear about the tasks for the day. Large groups may be divided into smaller working groups.
4. Have fun, take photos, and share your experience with others. We'd love to have a group photo of you all to share! Follow us on Facebook @TheSharkGarden and on Instagram @sharkgardenburien.
5. Wash off any tools you used and put them away. Take any garbage with you. (We don't have garbage service.)
6. Depending on the season, you might be able to take some produce home with you.
7. Sign out on the timesheet and give yourself a pat on the back for a job well done!
8. Send any of your favorite photos to us and they might end up on Facebook or the website.
9. Note: If you are a regular volunteer, please still keep track of your hours for us. It is very important for our grant funding.

Other Important Information: (Contact us with any questions! Info@sharkgarden.org)

1. There are no bathrooms in the garden in winter. Please plan accordingly. If you have a large group for a full day, we can help you arrange a porta potty rental, but you will need to cover the cost. There are bathrooms at Safeway. We do have a porta potty from April to November.
2. There are no covered areas in the garden year-round. We can set up canopies for events with enough notice. The canopies are 10x10 feet. There is also a covered area next to the storage container during the summer.
3. Expert led garden tours are available, by request, with enough notice. We can also provide speakers to events.
4. We have a couple folding tables available for events, with enough notice. Please arrange your own chairs. There are no picnic tables in the garden yet.
5. Students may be working in the garden during your volunteer time. Please say "Hi," if you get a chance.
6. Donations are always welcome and we will provide a donations jar, if you like.
7. The garden is open from dawn until dusk, daily. Please keep valuables locked out of sight.