

COMMITMENT PLEDGE

Please consider my application to be part of the Garden Corps. If I am accepted, my family and I will not plan special events or vacations during the spring and summer trainings. I also agree to complete this application by myself without a lot of help from another person.

I understand that Garden Corps participation requires that I commit to the following:

- Saturday trainings in March
- Three to five hours per week during the spring (after school and/or on weekends)
- One week of summer training: July 6–9 (Tuesday–Friday)
- Summer session: July 13–August 27 (Tuesday–Friday)
- Three to five hours per week during the fall (after school and/or on weekends)
- Periodic meetings, trainings, and special events scheduled throughout the year

The Garden Apprentice Program will be my No. 1 extracurricular activity during the spring and fall!

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Garden Corps applicant: Please answer these questions yourself, on a separate sheet of paper. Remember to write your name on each answer page, and include the question numbers beside your answers.

1. What do you like to do during your free time?
2. Why do you want to be in the Garden Apprentice Program?
3. What are your expectations for your personal growth in this program?
4. What are your plans after high school? What careers sound interesting to you? Why?
5. Have you ever worked alongside someone older than you? What was the experience like for you?
6. How do you think young people can effectively engage in environmental conservation?

BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN
1000 Washington Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11225-1099
bbg.org

GARDEN APPRENTICE PROGRAM

Garden Corps Application



The Garden Apprentice Program (GAP) at Brooklyn Botanic Garden is a great way for young people to learn about urban agriculture and the environment while working in one of the most exciting children's gardens in the world! The four-tiered program is demanding and fun, physical and intellectual, exploratory and eye-opening. Apprentices work their way up the tiers, eventually earning a paid Senior Apprentice position. If you are considering a "green" career, enjoy getting your hands dirty, and want to work with other youth, GAP may be for you. You are the future—help make it greener!

During the ten-month commitment, tier two Garden Corps apprentices do the following:

- Work behind the scenes with professionals at BBG: scientists, educators, and horticulturists.
- Maintain a vegetable plot in the Children's Garden and build horticulture skills.
- Develop job skills, including teamwork, communication, and responsibility.
- Earn a \$200 stipend at the end of the apprenticeship.

APPLYING TO BE A GARDEN CORPS APPRENTICE REQUIREMENTS

An applicant must be:

- current 9th- or 10th-grade student in fall 2009
- passionate about plants and the environment
- willing to commit ten months to being an apprentice

If selected, he/she must:

- attend all March training sessions and work a minimum of three hours per week throughout the spring
- complete the summer session
- work a minimum of three hours per week during the fall
- provide own lunch and transportation to and from BBG for all work shifts and trainings

SELECTION AND STIPENDS

Candidates who submit the full application package (including letters of reference) to BBG by the deadline of December 9, 2009, are invited to participate in a group interview the second week of January. Apprentices who successfully complete the ten-month program receive a \$200 stipend in recognition of their time and effort.

BIG CHANGES IN GAP!

The Garden Apprentice Program now begins in the spring and ends in the winter! In the past, GAP began in the summer; we have adjusted the program calendar to better suit the needs of the apprentices. Please call the GAP coordinator at 718-623-7252 if you have any questions.

OPEN HOUSE NOVEMBER 14, 2009

Please join us at 1 p.m. in the BBG Auditorium to find out more about the Garden Apprentice Program and the application process.

RSVP required to attend.
Contact GAP coordinator at 718-623-7252 or GAP@bbg.org.

DUE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2009

Complete and send to:
Brooklyn Botanic Garden
Garden Apprentice Program
1000 Washington Ave.
Brooklyn, NY 11225
Fax: 718-557-2430



Garden Corps Application

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 9, 2009

TO THE PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

The ten-month Garden Corps apprenticeship is a commitment for the entire family as well as for the apprentice. Apprentices need cooperation, support, transportation, and encouragement in order to do their best and make the most of their participation in the program. **Please be mindful of important dates and deadlines on the GAP calendar when planning family activities and vacations.**

Qualified applicants are chosen to participate in the program based on the strength of their application, available space, and supervisory limitations. Participant performance is evaluated weekly during training and seasonally thereafter. Garden Corps apprentices who do not meet set standards will be dismissed from the program.

After successfully completing the second tier of GAP, apprentices may apply to continue the program as a Junior Apprentice. There are many opportunities during the apprenticeship to discuss options for advancement with staff and with other apprentices in various tiers of the program. In addition, the valuable knowledge and job skills gained as a member of the Garden Corps prepare students for the work world or college-application process.

TO APPLY:

- Application form must be completed by the applicant.
- Include two references:
 1. Reference from science teacher (form enclosed)
 2. Reference letter from an adult who knows the applicant well (letters from relatives not accepted).
- Carefully complete each part of the application; application materials are reviewed as a whole. Responses to short-answer questions must be included.
- Complete application must be received by December 9, 2009.

A Brooklyn Botanic Garden staff advisory board will review all application and reference materials. All applicants who submit a complete application will be contacted to come in for an interview. **Interviews will be conducted the second week of January.**

DIRECTIONS TO THE GARDEN:

The Garden may be reached by public transportation:

- Subway: B (weekdays), Q, or shuttle train to Prospect Park; 2 or 3 train to Eastern Parkway; 4 or 5 train to Franklin Avenue.
- Bus: B16, B41, B43, B45, B48, and B71. There are visitor entrances on Flatbush Avenue and Eastern Parkway.

The Garden Apprentice Program is made possible with the generous support of the following funders: Altman Foundation, The William C. Bullitt Foundation, Inc., Louise and Arde Bulova Fund, Inc., Career Internship Network (CIN), Charles Hayden Foundation, Levitt Foundation, The Lucius N. Littauer Foundation, JPMorgan Chase, as well as gifts from individual donors and BBG trustees.

GARDEN APPRENTICE PROGRAM

Garden Corps Application

Name: _____

Gender: Male Female Transgender Other: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____ Current Grade: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Home Address: _____ Apt.: _____ Work Phone: _____

Student Cell Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Parent/guardian email address: _____ Student email address: _____

Can your family provide transportation to and from the Garden? Yes No

Can your family provide lunch during training? Yes No

With whom are you living? _____

Languages spoken at home: _____

Do you participate in the "free lunch" or "reduced lunch" program at your school? Yes No; Free lunch Reduced lunch

School: _____ Public Private Parochial Home School

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

School Phone: _____

How did you hear about the Garden Apprentice Program? Please check:

Internet School (teacher, counselor, other). Name: _____

Current or former Garden Apprentice. Name: _____ Flyer Other: _____

Each Garden Corps is given **four** uniform shirts and one hat. Shirts and hats are distributed on the first day of training.

Adult shirt size: Small Medium Large XL XXL

Important Dates

OPEN HOUSE: 1-3 PM
NOVEMBER 14, 2009

APPLICATION DEADLINE
DECEMBER 9, 2009

INTERVIEWS
SECOND WEEK IN
JANUARY 2010

ACCEPTANCE NOTIFICATIONS MAILED
FIRST WEEK IN
FEBRUARY 2010

ORIENTATION FOR APPRENTICES AND PARENTS:
7-8:30 PM
FEBRUARY 9, 2010

SPRING TRAINING
SATURDAYS IN MARCH 2010

Apprentices must attend the entire training period.

SPRING PLACEMENT
APRIL-JUNE 2010

SUMMER TRAINING
JULY 6-9, 2010

SUMMER PLACEMENT
JULY 13-AUGUST 27, 2010

FALL PLACEMENT
SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER
2010

Garden Corps Application

REFERENCE FORM

DUE DECEMBER 9, 2009



APPLICANTS: Give your science teacher (present or recent past) and one other **unrelated** adult a copy of this form. Ask your two references to mail this completed form to the Garden as soon as possible. **No applications will be reviewed without these two letters of reference.** Please be sure to thank your references for completing this form.

COMPLETE AND SEND TO:

BBG Garden Apprentice Program, 1000 Washington Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225, FAX: 718-857-2430

For Science Teachers:

Applicant's Name: _____

School: _____

Reference Name: _____

Subjects Taught: _____

Evening Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

The student above is applying to Brooklyn Botanic Garden's Apprentice Program for the Garden Corps: a ten-month program for students currently the 9th or 10th grade who have an interest in plants and the environment. The students we select must show responsibility and self-motivation, and commit to the summer session and after-school/weekend volunteer work through the spring and fall.

The Garden Corps program must be the student's No. 1 extracurricular activity. If you have any questions regarding the program, please call the Garden Apprentice Program Coordinator at 718-623-7252. We would appreciate your candid responses, which will be kept confidential.

If applicable, when did you last teach this student? _____

In what capacity and how long have you known this student? _____

Which best describes the applicant's relationship with her/his peers?

Shows leadership Reserved Is easily accepted by peers Prefers to be alone _____

Please explain your selection _____

(OTHER CHARACTERISTICS)

Do you know of any special interests, qualities, abilities, or experiences of this applicant that would be helpful for him/her in this program? _____

PLEASE EVALUATE THE STUDENT:

Scale: 1=Outstanding 2=Excellent 3=Good 4=Average 5=Fair 6=Below Average U=Unknown

| | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ORAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | U |
| INITIATIVE, SELF-MOTIVATION | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | U |
| ABILITY TO FOLLOW DIRECTIONS | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | U |
| PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | U |
| DEPENDABILITY, SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | U |
| ABILITY TO WORK INDEPENDENTLY | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | U |
| ABILITY TO WORK IN A GROUP | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | U |
| COOPERATION | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | U |
| RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY, RULES | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | U |
| SENSITIVITY TO THE FEELINGS OF OTHERS | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | U |
| ABILITY TO ACCEPT CRITICISM | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | U |
| CURIOSITY AND CREATIVITY | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | U |

I recommend this student to Brooklyn Botanic Garden for the Garden Apprentice Program:

- with great enthusiasm with confidence with some confidence with reservation
 I do not recommend (please list comments below)

Additional Comments:

Signature: _____

DUE DECEMBER 9, 2009

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