



## **Society for the Advancement of Volunteer Youth Behind the Scenes Information and Application**

---



Are you ready for a summer to remember? SAVY, the Society for the Advancement of Volunteer Youth, provides students 14 to 17 years of age with the opportunity to volunteer within their community while gaining experience in a variety of career fields. Through the SAVY program, participants have an experience that only Moody Gardens can offer.

## Goals and Objectives of the SAVY Program

- To expose participants to a variety of career fields, including biology and education.
- To help support Moody Gardens mission statement: Moody Gardens is a public, non-profit educational destination utilizing nature in the advancement of rehabilitation, conservation, recreation, and research.
- To be an enriching program that will challenge participants mentally, physically, and socially, regardless of sex, color, or creed.
- To provide an *edu-taining* environment for our visitors and guests.
- To assist staff with various duties and responsibilities.
- To help participants garner experience for future employment.

## Program Summary

### Years 2 - 4 - Education & Biology

**\* Due to the evolving nature of health and safety practices, the requirements below do not represent a guarantee of volunteer opportunities. While Moody Gardens will make every effort to allow these requirements to be met, if changes are required due to health and safety practices or the availability of Moody Gardens staff the SAVY participant will NOT be penalized. \***

Assist biologists Behind the Scenes (BTS) with various duties (Dependent on Health and Safety Restrictions).

- 3 shifts in June
- 3 shifts in July
- 2 shifts in August

Educate guests about a variety of topics using interpretive carts in different exhibits throughout the facility.

- 3 shifts in June
- 3 shifts in July
- 1 shift in August



*61st Fishing Pier CEC*

Attend Continuing Education Classes (CEC) to learn different aspects of life sciences and other career fields.

- 3 Continuing Education Classes throughout the summer

Opportunity to volunteer during the Winter Session

- 2 shifts each month from October to April (14 shifts total) with half of these consisting of Exhibit shifts and half BTS shifts.

**Please Consider the Following when Applying for SAVY**

- The SAVY Program requires at least 6 shifts in June, 6 shifts in July, and 3 shifts in August. Each shift is 4 hours. Applicants should determine if they have fortitude or time to successfully complete the program.
- Applicants who will be 18 by August 31 will not be accepted into the program, but should consider the adult volunteer program. (Email *avolunteer@moodygardens.org* for additional information on the adult program.)
- Participants must attend orientation as well as any necessary training sessions and continuing education programs as requested in order to carry out the duties of their assigned tasks.
- Participants must be dependable and reliable, and carry out their duties in a professional manner. If you fail to uphold your responsibilities BTS shift will be revoked.
- Uniform shirts are provided but participants must supply their own black or khaki shorts or pants, brown or black belt, and black or white closed toed shoes.

**Application Instructions**

- Fill out the form COMPLETELY. **Incomplete forms will not be considered.**
- Provide a **typed** 500-word essay about your future goals and how you feel the SAVY Program can help you accomplish those goals. (*Times New Roman, 12 pt font, SINGLE SPACED*)
- Provide a copy of your most recent report card or homeschool evaluation
- The application must be completed by the applicant

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nickname (optional) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Birthday (mm/dd/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email (Please use an email that gets checked regularly) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent Email (please use an email that gets checked regularly) \_\_\_\_\_

What is the best way to contact you?  
 Call                       Email  
 When is the best time to contact you? AM or PM  
 What school do you attend? \_\_\_\_\_

Current Grade level \_\_\_\_\_  
 Why do you want to return as a SAVY?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

What, if anything, are you most nervous about in returning to SAVY?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any animal phobias? If yes, what?

\_\_\_\_\_

Please list any achievements you have received recently. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What do you hope to gain from returning to the SAVY program? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Tell us something you have gained from being a part of the SAVY program thus far \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Read this Statement Carefully!**  
 I hereby affirm that the information given by me on this application is complete and accurate. I understand that any falsification or omission will be immediate grounds for dismissal from the SAVY program. I authorize a thorough investigation to be made concerning my character, general reputation, employment and educational background and criminal record, whichever may be applicable. I understand what this investigation may include and I hereby authorize the release of document, and personal interviews with third parties, such as prior employers, family members, business associates, financial sources, friends, neighbors or others with whom I am acquainted.

Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Remember!

- Fill out the form completely. Incomplete forms will not be considered.
- All SAVY applications including typed 500-word essay and report cards must be received by:  
**5:00p.m. on Friday March 31<sup>st</sup>**
- All completed materials must be received by the deadline for you to be considered as an applicant.
- Email applications to:  
[youthprograms@moodygardens.org](mailto:youthprograms@moodygardens.org)



## Contacts

Please feel free to contact:

Youth Volunteer Specialist

Phone: 409-683-4121

Email: [youthprograms@moodygardens.org](mailto:youthprograms@moodygardens.org)

or

Volunteer Program Manager

Phone: 409-683-4108

Email: [volunteers@moodygardens.org](mailto:volunteers@moodygardens.org)



Moody Gardens is a public, non-profit educational destination utilizing nature in the advancement of rehabilitation, conservation, recreation and research.