

# **Frequently asked questions for Group and Corporate Volunteers**

## **What type of projects are available at Moody Gardens®?**

We have a variety of projects available throughout the year:

- Garden and grounds maintenance such as mulching, planting and/or weeding
- Painting
- Exhibit Upkeep
- Event preparation
- Cleaning attractions, such as cleaning the lazy river, playground structures and surfaces
- Paint and change bulbs for Festival of Lights
- Special events, such as Ghostly Gardens, Easter in the Gardens and Festival of Lights

*Please Note: Due to animal husbandry guidelines and safety issues, there is no animal contact or inside-exhibit work with the animals at Moody Gardens®*

## **Our group/organization would like to donate money as part of our project. What opportunities does this create?**

We welcome your support! Projects with an accompanying donation are created based on greatest need. Please make sure to let us know in advance if you are interested in this kind of project.

## **When are projects scheduled?**

Groups may volunteer year round, weather permitting. Moody Gardens® greatest need for volunteers is between September and May.

## **How far in advance should we schedule our project?**

The sooner the better! We confirm projects in the order requests are received. All projects should be scheduled at least one month in advance. Please complete and return a Group Volunteer Application.

## **Am I guaranteed a project if I e-mail Moody Gardens®?**

Moody Gardens® cannot guarantee volunteer placement. Moody Gardens® will, however, make every effort to match volunteer applicants to volunteer opportunities based on the needs of Moody Gardens® and the interests and abilities of the volunteer. Giving us a range of dates months in advance will help us schedule a project for your group.

## **How long will the project last?**

Most projects are designed to last for four to eight hours and may be shorter depending on the size of the group and how quickly work is completed. We typically schedule projects from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to work during cooler hours. Special event hours will depend on timing of the event.

## **After our project is complete, may we visit the attractions?**

Yes! You are welcome to visit to one of the following attractions: Aquarium, Rainforest, or Palm Beach after your project is complete or receive tickets to come back at a later date. Only those who complete the project are given free admittance. Anyone meeting you after the project must pay regular admission.

## **My group is volunteering at the Moody Gardens®. May we bring family members along?**

Projects are designed for the age range of the group. Some projects are not suitable for volunteers under the age of 18 and age restrictions may apply. The minimum age for group and corporate volunteers is 16, we cannot make exceptions to this. For liability reasons, if children under the age of 16 accompany the group, an

adult must stay with them and the child may not participate in the project. The adult and child/children will be required to pay regular admission.

**What happens if it is raining on the day of my volunteer project?**

Most volunteer projects are designed for all weather. If you would prefer not to work in the rain or cold, and the weather looks as though it will be such please let us know by 2 p.m. the day prior to your project. We will contact you by 2 p.m. the day prior as well if your project cannot be completed in the forecasted weather. Rescheduling will be based on future availability and is not guaranteed.

**Is food provided?**

We encourage you to bring beverage containers that can be refilled by water fountain. If you would like to have a meal on property, we have concessions and restaurants available. Let us know in advance what your needs are so we can be most helpful.

**Do we need to bring anything with us?**

Just your willingness and exuberance! We will provide needed supplies.

**What should we wear?**

Wear comfortable clothing for the weather and closed-toe shoes. Please make sure that any writing or artwork on your clothing is appropriate. Hats and sunglasses are recommended in the warmer months, as well as insect repellent and sunscreen. Any special requirements based on volunteer duty will be communicated.

**Is there any paperwork we need to fill out?**

We require a signed liability waiver on file for every volunteer. For children under the age of 18, we will need to have a parent or guardian sign the second page of the form. These forms will be provided when the project is scheduled and must be submitted either prior to or upon arrival the day of the project. You will not be allowed to volunteer without a signed release.

**Where should we go the day of our project?**

A Volunteer Services staff member will contact you with all the project specifics. For most projects, the Volunteer Coordinator will meet your group at a predetermined location.

**What if we need proof that the project was completed?**

Please bring any paperwork you need completed when you come for your project. Give paperwork to the Volunteer Coordinator who will meet your group. We will complete the paperwork and return it to you at the end of your project. If you need us to mail anything, please provide us with the name and contact information.

Still have questions? Please contact Volunteer Services at [volunteers@moodygardens.org](mailto:volunteers@moodygardens.org) or 409-683-4108.