



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Since opening as a public garden in 1998, volunteers have offered their service in all areas of the Arboretum. For every person's unique interest in the Arboretum, there is a place to volunteer!

The Polly Hill Arboretum, a non-profit public garden, is a horticultural and botanical landmark, open year-round from sunrise to sunset. Today, it is the perpetuation of Polly Hill's fifty years of horticultural experimentation. The Arboretum is a local and global resource with a mission of education, research, and plant conservation. It seeks to preserve its land, promote an understanding of the plants and encourage observation and enjoyment of the 72-acre property located on Martha's Vineyard.

The Arboretum's success can be attributed to the friendly and helpful volunteers. Volunteers are trained and work alongside the knowledgeable and supportive staff. Opportunities may be year-round, seasonal, project-based, or as needed. Here are the many aspects of the Polly Hill Arboretum that volunteers support:

Plant Collections & Arboretum Grounds – Weeding, raking, fencing, mulching, trail work, tree work, planting, and grounds maintenance make the Arboretum a beautiful place!

Greenhouse – The Arboretum's foundation is based on seed grown plants; help staff clean seeds, transplant, propagate, clean plants, tag plants, and maintain plant sales area.

Visitor Center – Staff the Visitor Center and meet new people; greet, educate, assist visitors, promote plant/merchandise/ membership sales to support an enjoyable visitor experience

Tours – Guide visitors through the Arboretum to share the plants, people, history and future of this special place

Youth Education – Facilitate curriculum and nature based lessons in small groups of students as directed by the education staff

Office Work – Assist the office staff with mailings or document filing

Events – Work closely with staff to prepare and host events; general set-up, collect fees, seat visitors, distribute name tags, direct visitors, and more!

Family Programs – The Arboretum is a community resource for people of all ages. Assist staff with family activities, arts & crafts, book programs, and more!

Plants, Science & Conservation – Support the cultivated collection and natural flora; work with staff to record phenology, label plants, inventory plant collections, identify plants, use artistic ability in herbarium

Digital Support – Utilize your technological skills to upload plant photos, organize digital archives, enter plant data for curatorial records, or work with staff to photograph Arboretum throughout the seasons

Archives – PHA can attribute its existence to the diligent records of its past. Transcribe handwritten notes, organize, sort, preserve, label, or scan important documents and history for future use.

Interested? For more information or questions about becoming a Polly Hill Arboretum volunteer, contact Erin Hepfner Volunteer Coordinator, via email erin@pollyhillarboretum.org or by phone (508) 693-9426.