



SERPENTINE COMMUNITY GARDEN SOCIETY

VOLUNTEERING: IS IT FOR ME?

Volunteers are an integral part of the work and day-to-day life of the Serpentine Community Garden. Without their energy, commitment and time we would be unable to deliver our vision for SCG and would not have achieved the fantastic progress that we have made so far.

Because our volunteers are such an important resource to us, we have put together this document which outlines the relationship between the SCG and our volunteers, so that you know what you can expect from being a part of this community.

The Garden brings together a diverse group of people who have interests in horticulture, protecting nature and being part of a socially interactive group.

When you volunteer with us, you sign up to this statement and are asked to demonstrate respect, care and understanding for your fellow volunteers.

We follow three key principles that help foster happy and productive group interaction:

respect

We strive to develop an environment that is accessible to all. This means that we expect all our volunteers to recognise that we are unique individuals and that the differences between people can enrich and enhance our experience of working at the project.

collaboration

A willingness to listen to others and be open to other people's ideas and opinions is an important aspect of this. Working together as part of a team rather than a set of individuals makes us a stronger organisation. There will always be a differences in working practices but we should be prepared to compromise to achieve what is best for the Community Garden.

communication

Make sure you let others know what you are doing on-site and why. Feedback and comments are best when given in a constructive and mindful way. If there are issues that concern you, please contact one of our Gardenisers or any trustee, rather than letting them niggle. If the trustees don't know about problems then we can't do anything to address them.

Volunteer roles

We aim to provide our volunteers with the opportunity to develop new or additional horticultural skills, and to become part of a welcoming, active social group based around the SCG project.

We have a range of activities to offer. Some may require a level of physical fitness, for example site clearance, maintenance and building projects. Other activities are less strenuous and include growing and harvesting produce, light greenhouse & polytunnel maintenance. We also welcome volunteers who could turn their hand to help with the administration of the project, for example with communications or advertising; it's not all about getting your hands dirty!

Our volunteers come to us from all sections of the community, and include people with particular needs who may find taking part in a horticultural project beneficial to their health and well-being.

If you come along with a carer or supporter, we will need to rely on that person to supervise and take full responsibility for you whilst on-site. This includes letting us know what tasks you can and can't undertake, how long you can carry out the activity for, and determine the length of stay on-site. It's important you and your carer or supporter talk about how much you feel you can do, so that when we make a suggestion about jobs to be done, we can rely on you or your carer to let us know if you have agreed such a job might not be right for you.

Our work at the SCG may not be for everyone (particularly while we are still developing parts of the site), so before anyone starts with us we invite them to come for an informal look around. This gives both you and us the opportunity to discuss our activities and make an informed decision about whether what we can offer will work for you.

UP FOR IT?

please get in touch

we look forward to hearing from you.