



**Date:** January 7, 2009

**MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN'S 'SAGE' PROGRAM PROVIDES  
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS**

**WHAT:** SAGE Service Program (Students as Garden Educators)  
**WHEN:** Applications due Friday, Apr. 24 for volunteer openings from May 10 through Oct. 31  
**WHERE:** Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis  
**INFO:** [www.mobot.org/education/sageservice/default.asp](http://www.mobot.org/education/sageservice/default.asp); (314) 577-9425 or [laura.aschenbeck@mobot.org](mailto:laura.aschenbeck@mobot.org)

(ST. LOUIS): High school students, begin planning now to enjoy a rewarding summer experience and fulfill community service hours. Volunteer with the Missouri Botanical Garden's **SAGE** (Students as Garden Educators) service program to teach young visitors about the wonders of nature. The program is open to any St. Louis-area student, age 14 through 18, who is outgoing and eager to share knowledge with others. Applications will be accepted through Friday, Apr. 24 for May through October volunteer positions.

SAGE volunteers will work in the outdoor Doris I. Schnuck Children's Garden, a two-acre family attraction designed to educate through play. Students will help to enrich visitors' experiences with discovery and learning at seven themed "Germination Stations." Don a headlamp to lead children on a Missouri cave experience, explaining the unique formations. Explore a tree from bark to branch and root to leaf. Instill an appreciation for nature inside the Nature Explore Classroom™, where children can dig in the mud, hunt for an insect, or make art from flower petals. Share the important roles wetlands play in Missouri, from absorbing flood water to hosting rich biodiversity.

(over)

## **ADD ONE: SAGE**

Have “bushels of fun” inside the General Store with food plants, help foster an appreciation of flowers and their pollinators, or demonstrate early settlers’ many uses for native plants.

Young Garden visitors are not the only recipients of the program’s benefits. SAGE allows high school participants to practice and improve their public speaking and teaching skills in an approachable atmosphere. Students can cite their participation to enhance future college and job applications, and acquire at least 50 hours of community service.

SAGE participants must attend an orientation on Saturday, May 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to familiarize themselves with the program. Students will receive an informational packet and shadow a Children’s Garden staff member for two hours prior to their service.

SAGE volunteer positions are available seven days a week, May 10 through Oct 31, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Evening hours are also available on Wednesdays and Thursdays from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Shifts are flexible and staff will work to accommodate participants’ work schedules, summer school, vacation plans, and other commitments. Students are asked to volunteer a minimum of 50 hours.

To apply, download an application at [www.mobot.org/education/sageservice/](http://www.mobot.org/education/sageservice/) and send the completed form to the Missouri Botanical Garden, attention Laura Aschenbeck/ SAGE Program, P.O. Box 299, St. Louis, Mo. 63166-0299. Applications are due by Friday, Apr. 24.

For questions or more information, contact Laura Aschenbeck at (314) 577-9425 or [laura.aschenbeck@mobot.org](mailto:laura.aschenbeck@mobot.org).

The Missouri Botanical Garden is the oldest continually operating botanical garden in the nation, celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2009. *Missouri Botanical Garden: Green for 150 Years*.

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**NOTE: A digital color image is available by request. Download media materials at [www.mobot.org/press](http://www.mobot.org/press).**

The Missouri Botanical Garden’s mission is “to discover and share knowledge about plants and their environment, in order to preserve and enrich life.” Today, 150 years after opening, the Missouri Botanical Garden is a National Historic Landmark and a center for science, conservation, education and horticultural display. *Missouri Botanical Garden: Green for 150 Years*.