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Explanation and Policy of the Horticulture Volunteer Group of the Morris Arboretum

The grounds of the Morris Arboretum are divided up into six sections. Each section is managed by a horticulturist: Azalea Meadow/FranklinTown section by Bill Graham; Penn's Woods by Rich Orth; Bloomfield Farm by Chick Culp; Compton by Daniel Allier; English Park by Melinda Adams; and The Rose Garden by Judy McKeon. The horticulture volunteers assist the section managers and may find themselves pruning shrubs, dead-heading roses, dividing perennials, weeding beds, or transplanting young trees. One must be physically able, but not necessarily technically skilled, as the horticulture staff provides regular instructions. It has been our experience at the Arboretum that the staff and volunteers form a cooperative team, freely sharing skills and knowledge. One must be a member of the Arboretum to participate as a volunteer.

Volunteers meet every Wednesday morning at 8:30 a.m. at the Widener Education Center and work until 12:00 noon. Please sign in to our log book kept in the interns' office as records of volunteer hours help the Arboretum substantiate its funding. Volunteers are entitled to 1/2 price on education courses after completing 30 hours of annual service. Materials fee is applicable at full rate. There is no reduction for Branching

Out trips or the Gardening Expositions. Any questions should be directed to Jan McFarlan at extension 156. Hours are recorded by fiscal year (July 1 to June 30).

Tools are provided by the department, but some like to bring their own hand pruners. You should come dressed for the weather and the work.

Don't worry if you arrive late or leave early or are unable to make it every Wednesday. We appreciate any time that you can spare. If a volunteer wants to donate extra time in a specific area, that can be arranged with the individual section manager. Remember that you are responsible for keeping your own time record.

The first Wednesday of each month we will hold a brown bag lunch seminar from 12:15-1:00 to discuss a variety of topics from pruning to perennial care. The schedule will be mailed to each volunteer.

The volunteer schedule runs from March to mid-December. Two Wednesdays in February the staff present educational workshops for the volunteers. We also have informal pruning sessions in the winter months for those who want to brave the elements.

Inclement weather sometimes prevents us from working and the day is cancelled. If in doubt you can call the horticulture center at 247-4107 from 7:45 a.m.

The schedule of activities is subject to change, but you will notice that the groups rotate through the various sections, which we hope will provide you with varied experiences and

enable you to get to know each section and its manager. Two field trips to local private and public gardens, and the staff/volunteer picnic and holiday party completes the schedule. There are many volunteer opportunities at the Morris Arboretum and we encourage you to be a guide, or to work at the plant sale, or in the greenhouse. However, the horticulture volunteers are a separate group with separate agenda and policies.

Finally, as the volunteer group develops, policy may need to change; therefore, please speak up if you think additions or subtractions should be made.