



EYA Peer Mentor – Volunteer Posting

Volunteer Title: Peer Mentor

Dates: Spring, Summer and Fall 2020 (see below for dates)

Hours: 50 hours per term

What we do

The Environmental Youth Alliance (EYA) helps youth living in the Downtown Eastside to connect with nature, grow new skills, and make new friends. Our programs empower youth to grow native plants and create gardens that help birds, bees, and other wildlife survive in Vancouver's urban neighborhoods. To find out more visit <http://www.eya.ca>

What you'll do

Looking to develop your leadership skills? Interested in environmental education and working with youth? Passionate about wildlife and plants? Apply to become an EYA Peer Mentor and work alongside experienced EYA staff to run our year-round programs for high school-aged youth facing barriers at Strathcona Community Gardens in the Downtown Eastside.

Upon completion of the program you will gain community service hours to build your resume, and receive a certificate of mentorship from EYA.

We ask that Peer Mentors commit to a **minimum of one eight-session program** per term volunteering with EYA and - ideally- returning in subsequent terms the same year. We want to invest in your growth as a facilitator and nature-concerned human being!

All volunteers must also attend a free 1-day training February 29th, 10am-4pm.

As a Peer Mentor volunteer, you will:

- Deepen your knowledge of native plants and wildlife
- Learn about environmental education & facilitation
- Gain experience working with youth facing barriers
- Lead activities relevant to program content
- Mentor & support program participants
- Develop leadership & communication skills
- Help with program set-up & clean-up
- Take photos for EYA's social media channels
- Help maintain wildlife habitat areas - weeding, watering, planting
- Gain volunteer hours & experience for your resume
- Position yourself for potential job opportunities (many EYA peer mentors have gone on to become paid EYA staff)

2020 Program Schedule - dates/times may be subject to change (for Fall term in particular)

Spring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturdays March 7-May 9, 10:30am-2:30pm <i>Native Plant Nursery (Pollinators)</i> • Tuesdays March 3 – May 19 (skip March 17 & 24), 11am-2:30pm <i>Land Guardians</i> • Wednesdays March 4 – May 20 (skip March 18 & 25), 11am-2:30pm <i>Land Guardians</i> • Thursdays, April 2-May 21, 10:30am-2:30pm <i>Native Plant Nursery (Birds)</i>
Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday to Friday July 13-24, 10:30am-2:30pm <i>Plants for People</i> • Monday to Friday, July 13-24, 12:30pm-4:30pm <i>Native Plant Nursery (Birds)</i> • Saturdays, Jul 4-Aug 29 (skip Aug 1), 12:30pm-4:30pm <i>Plants for People</i> • Monday to Friday Aug 10-21, 11am-3pm <i>Plants for People</i>
Fall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturdays, Sept 26 – Nov 21 (skip Oct 10), 10:30am-2:30pm <i>Plants for People</i> • Tuesdays, Sept 22-Nov 10, 11am-2:30pm <i>Land Guardians</i> • Wednesdays, Sept 22-Nov 18 (skip Nov 11), 11am-2:30pm <i>Land Guardians</i> • Mondays, Sept 28-Nov 23 (skip Oct 12) <i>Native Plant Nursery (Pollinators)</i> • Saturdays, 12:30-4:30pm (skip Oct 10) <i>Native Plant Nursery (Birds)</i>

2020 Program Descriptions

Native Plant Nursery

Working together to propagate hundreds of native plants, youth will gain hands-on experience working in an organic nursery & greenhouse, while learning about our urban ecosystem. Participants will also be actively involved in a riparian habitat restoration project at Still Creek. Each program will have a focus on conservation of either birds or pollinators.

Land Guardians

Indigenous youth will support biodiversity in their communities through monitoring, habitat restoration and growing plants in our native plant nursery. They will learn about cultural teachings and plant uses from Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Keepers and EYA facilitators while building relations, making medicines and preparing foods with plants from Coast Salish territories.

Plants & People

While expanding connection to place and relations, youth will grow their understanding of plant knowledge through three intertwined learning systems: plants for food, plants for medicine and plants for fibre. Youth will support maintenance of EYA garden sites, developing both horticulture skills and skills related to preparing foods and medicine with the harvest.

How to apply

These volunteer positions are open to all youth ages 18-25. *We encourage applications from past EYA participants and youth from underrepresented groups.* To apply, complete this online form at www.eya.ca/peer-mentors

Applications will be reviewed as soon as they are received, so let us know ASAP if you're interested! For questions, please email info@eya.ca

Deadline to apply is Friday January 24, or until filled.

We gratefully acknowledge that EYA operates on the unceded and traditional territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), səliłwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh), and Sk̓wxwú7mesh (Squamish people).