



EYA Peer Mentor – Volunteer Posting

Volunteer Title: Peer Mentor

Dates: Fall 2020 (see below for dates)

Hours: 45 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 neighbourhoods. 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 Nature Stewards Program** engaging youth and **one 3 hour Wild Mind Field Trip session** engaging K-7 aged children per term volunteering with EYA. Ideally, we would like Peer Mentors to return in subsequent terms the same year. We are eager to invest in your growth as a facilitator and nature-concerned human being!

Volunteers must also attend a free training session on Wed Sept 9th or Thurs Sept 10th (specific day / time TBC based on Peer Mentor availability).

As a Peer Mentor volunteer, you will:

- Deepen your knowledge of native plants and wildlife
- Learn about environmental education & facilitation
- Gain experience working with children and youth facing barriers
- Lead activities relevant to program content
- Mentor & support program participants
- Develop leadership & communication skills
- Facilitate basic activities (with support from your Program Coordinator)
- 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 Nature Stewards Program Schedule - dates/times may be subject to change

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</i> ● Monday to Friday, July 27 – Aug 7, 12:30pm-4:30pm <i>Native Plant Nursery (Birds)</i> ● Monday to Friday Aug 10-21, 11am-3pm <i>Plants for People II</i>
Fall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Saturdays, Sept 12 – Nov 7 (skip Oct 10), 12:30pm-4:30pm <i>Plants for People</i> ● Saturdays, Sept 12 – TBD (skip Oct 10), 10:30am-2:30pm <i>Seed Generation</i> ● Sundays, Sept 13-Nov 8 (skip Oct 11), 11am-2:30pm <i>Native Plant Nursery (Birds)</i> ● Tuesdays, Sept 15 – Nov 3 <i>Land Guardians</i> ● Wednesdays, Sept 16 – Nov 4 <i>Land Guardians</i> ● Sept – Nov 3 hours (scheduled on an ad hoc basis <i>Wild Minds Field Trips</i>

PLEASE NOTE: Wild Mid Field Trips will be scheduled on an ad hoc basis

Nature Stewards Program Descriptions

8-session programs engaging high school-aged youth unless otherwise noted

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.

Wild Mind Field Trips Program Description

3 hour field trips engaging K-7 aged children

During visits to Strathcona Community Garden, children will explore their interconnections with urban ecology through art and science. Each field trip starts with a habitat scavenger hunt, and wraps up with students making wildflower seed bombs to support native pollinators. The core activity of the field trips will rotate depending on the age group. **Peer Mentors will receive an \$45 honorarium per field trip session, with a minimum of 1 required field trip per individual in a season.**

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 Wednesday Sept 2, or until filled.

We gratefully acknowledge that EYA operates on the unceded and traditional territory of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), səliwətaʔt (Tseil-Waututh), and Sḵwḵwú7mesh (Squamish people).