



Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden

Exploring, explaining and celebrating the world of plants

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden

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Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden Earns National Recognition for Exemplary Volunteer Practices

June 6, 2024 — [The Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden](#) was recently reaccredited as a Service Enterprise (SEI), recognizing their efforts to meaningfully engage a broad volunteer base. The Botanical Garden has more than 300 volunteers serving in a number of roles, from horticulture assistance and tours to admissions and gift shop service, on a daily basis.

“Our volunteers do so much more than ‘work’ around the botanical garden grounds,” said Kim Perez, President and CEO of the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden. “Their expertise, experience and helpful nature is what makes the Botanical Garden one of the most unique places to spend time and connect with oneself or others. Volunteers serve as essential parts of our workforce.”

This national distinction is awarded to nonprofits and public organizations who effectively leverage volunteers and their skills to meet organizational and community needs. The Association of Leaders in Volunteer Management (ALIVE) administers the program and oversees the rigorous selection process.

The accreditation program equips nonprofits and public organizations to increase their return on volunteer investment and meet their missions. Volunteers are central to the operations at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden at every level — dedicated community members who contribute over 14,000 hours of service annually.

“It is clear that the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden has remained committed to both integrating volunteers in meaningful and strategic ways and creating a supportive and fulfilling experience for the volunteers themselves,” said Traci Lato-Smith from ALIVE.

Volunteerism has always been key to the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden’s ability to serve the Des Moines community. Many of the involved volunteers have knowledge that precedes some staff, and often provide insight and advice on planning committees as well as assistance with tours, garden care, events and more. Botanical Garden staff value the opportunity to review and improve their volunteer processes routinely through the Initiative.



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“The Service Enterprise Initiative process provides an objective framework that our team uses to assess our internal practices and strategies to ensure our workforce continues to be strengthened through volunteerism,” said Perez. “Having a strong, satisfied and engaged volunteer base is impactful across all aspects of the Botanical Garden, and through volunteerism, we’ll continue to build and steward strong relationships with community members.”

To explore volunteer opportunities for the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, visit the [“Volunteer”](#) page on their website or call 515-323-6293.

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About the [Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden](#)

The Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden is more than a dome, it’s *the connection point* between plants, people and the natural world. It’s a place where you can *be who you are, do the things you love* and *spend time* with the people who matter most. A place where anyone can explore, create, connect, and *find their true nature*. This urban oasis, located in downtown Des Moines, is a nonprofit that keeps growing because of the support of its members and volunteers. Located amidst a vibrant cityscape and lovely river views, the 12-acres of gardens are teeming with thousands of native plants and exotic greenery from across the world. Its verdant offerings include a soothing waterfall and pond, one of the country’s most extensive bonsai collections, and brilliant seasonal blooms galore. No matter the season, the Botanical Garden provides a range of fun, signature events and classes in an always friendly climate. In operation since 1979, it features an 80 feet tall geodesic-domed conservatory that includes a living wall and 18 outdoor gardens interspersed with sculptures, a serene water garden, regal rows of shade trees, walking paths, a stunning orchid collection, vibrant rose garden, unique Asian-style garden and much more.