

Become a Garden Science Affiliate

Advantages

Scientists at the Garden intends to bring benefits to everyone. Not only will the scientists hone their skills in communication with the public, but the public will also become more educated in current scientific discoveries made in their own communities! Through these face-to-face interactions between local scientists and the public, we hope to strengthen trust and education throughout the Huntsville-Madison County community.

There is no fee to apply or participate, and we will give Affiliates who complete the program a free individual Garden Membership.

Professional Development Workshops:

At these workshops, we will develop skills for scientists to present their scientific findings to the public. The ability to communicate with all people in our community is critical to the cultivation of public education and awareness of current scientific discoveries.

There are two mandatory workshops on Mondays 4pm – 6pm at the Huntsville Botanical Gardens, which will discuss the following:

- **How People Learn:** utilize this knowledge to make an engaging and meaningful presentation for the public audience
- **Activity Development:** design and build a presentation and hands-on activity that can directly involve the audience in the process of discovery and learning
- **Facilitation:** initiate audience interest and encourage further involvement in discussion and inquiry

Additionally, we have a prototype event (which will also be a Monday 4pm – 6pm) where Garden Science Affiliates will practice their presentation and hands-on activity with Garden staff and volunteers. This is an opportunity to prepare for the public event, and make adjustments accordingly.

We will provide food and drinks at all of these events.

Expectations

We expect all Scientists accepted into the program to commit to the following:

- Attend the 2 professional development workshops, Prototype Practice and present at least once at one of the Scientists in the Garden Programs (dates for the current round are on the application)
- Work individually, with a team, or one-on-one with staff to develop a hands-on activity related to your current work, and provide materials for your activity.
- Respond or fill out all forms and surveys

Application

Applicants can either:

- Fill out the online application below (or link)
- Print out the PDF form and email a photocopy of completed form to Soozie Pline (spline@hvbg.org)