



Idaho *B*otanical Garden



Volunteers!
Our Most Precious Resource
Karen Christeson

IBG Overview



- 501(c)3 Non-profit Organization
- 33 acres of land, 15 acres are developed
- Over 400,000 plants
- Over 190,000 annual visitors
- Over 4,500 Garden Members
- Over 12,000 participants in classes
- Over 15,500 volunteer hours
- Annual operating budget \$1,500,000



Mission



To provide a full garden experience for all ages that enhances our community's quality of life through plant collections, our education programs, and our entertainment, cultural and community events.

Introduction



- **Volunteers are your heart and soul!**
- **Your goal is to build a dynamic volunteer program that establishes lasting relationships and successful experiences!**



IBG Volunteers

What?

- Office and admin tasks
- Garden and grounds maintenance
- Events
- Education programming

Who?

- All ages!
- Groups
- Individuals



Money makes the Garden Go Around

The estimated hourly value of Volunteer Time for 2016 = \$24.14 (Independent Sector). This is a national figure. For Idaho, it is lower: \$21.10 an hour.

SOME ROUGH NUMBERS:

~800 Volunteers

15,444.25 total hours of volunteer time (2015)

Economic Impact of Volunteers = **\$363,866.50**



Recruiting

- Clearly define volunteer roles
- Post and update community calendars
- Engage national and regional databases such as Volunteermatch, United Way, Serve Idaho
- Word of mouth!
- OUT REACH- Ambassadors at community event resource tables
- IN HOUSE communication – volunteer cheer -e-newsletter, Garden e-news, recruitment e-mails

Retaining



- Create welcoming culture
- Provide guidance, support, and resources to ensure success
- Match volunteers to tasks to enrich volunteer experience
- Provide training
- Provide consistency
- Make it FUN!

Recognizing

- Make it a priority
- Do it often, frequent, & informal
- Make it appropriate to the achievement
- Be sincere
- Recognize the person not the work
- Hand written thank you notes
- Name badges
- Newsletters
- Acknowledgement letters
- Annual recognition events
- Nominations for community recognition
- Organizational logo t-shirts
- Items with logos
- Job references
- Free treats

Last, But Not Least!

- Know the importance of investing in a volunteer program
- Have a dedicated person to manage volunteer program
- Educate staff to work with volunteers
- Take advantage of volunteer management websites and resources
- Network with other volunteer managers
- Contribute to advancing the profession

Located in Boise's Old Penitentiary Historic District, the Idaho Botanical Garden is dedicated to enhancing our community's quality of life through fostering a love of nature and developing intellectual curiosity in people of all ages. Originally the site of the tree nursery and grounds of the State Penitentiary, the garden is a living Museum.

The Garden provides enriching garden experiences through educational programs, botanical collections, a variety of entertainment, cultural and community events in addition to providing a refreshing and inspiring year round outdoor destination for local residents and out-of-town visitors.

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Idaho Botanical Garden

CULTIVATE • EDUCATE • CELEBRATE

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