

Project BudBurst Volunteer

Reports to: Plant Taxonomist/Herbarium Curator

Program Description

Project BudBurst is a nationwide, community science-driven effort (sometimes referred to as “citizen science”) designed to study plant responses to changes in climate. Project BudBurst volunteers monitor the occurrence (timing) of specific biological events in a plant’s life history known as phenophases (full bloom, fruiting, etc.), and report their observations by directly submitting their data online to the Project BudBurst website (preferred) or by submitting completed observation datasheets to Hoyt Arboretum staff.

Responsibilities

- Become familiar with key plant structures (e.g., leaf buds, flower buds, flowers, fruits, etc.) and develop an understanding of phenology
- Visit and observe a pre-designated plant(s) as it develops during the growing season
- Record observations and submit data online (or turn in datasheets to Hoyt Arboretum staff)
- Report volunteer service hours monthly

Qualifications

- Willingness to expand knowledge of plant identification skills and phenology
- Comfortable spending time outdoors and walking on trails
- Ability to follow monitoring standards and correctly fill out datasheets
- All volunteers must pass a background check

Time Requirements

Project BudBurst volunteers should be available to visit their designated plant(s) at least once every other week during the growing season (approximately March through November). Each site visit may take approximately 5 to 10 minutes, once you have located and arrived at your designated plant(s) to monitor. While there are no set shifts, Project BudBurst volunteers are encouraged to volunteer during times when the Visitor Center is open (Monday-Friday 9am-4pm, Saturday-Sunday 11am-3pm).

Training

Project BudBurst volunteers are required to attend an introductory training session. During the training, volunteers will:

- Learn about Hoyt Arboretum, Hoyt Arboretum Friends and its partnership with Portland Parks & Recreation
- Learn about plant structures and phenology
- Choose a specific plant(s) or species to monitor
- Visit a designated plant(s) to monitor, and learn to fill out and submit collected data

Additional training opportunities are available to Project BudBurst volunteers on an ongoing basis. More information about this nationwide project is at www.budburst.org.

Benefits

Hoyt Arboretum volunteers are eligible for an annual Washington Park volunteer parking pass and complimentary membership with HAF after **15 volunteer hours** have been completed. Benefits include a 20% discount in the Visitor Center, discounts on classes, monthly Lunch & Learn sessions, off-site field trip opportunities, invitations to members-only events, and an annual volunteer appreciation celebration.

To Apply: Please email volunteer@hoytarboretum.org or call (503) 823-1649 for more information.