



[Biodiversity BuildersSM](mailto:Jean@devinenativeplantings.com) Jean@devinenativeplantings.com (617) 947-6256

Inspiring Youth to be Earth Stewards and Improve Local Ecosystems through Project-Based Learning

Biodiversity BuildersSM College Mentor Application Summer 2024

In the Biodiversity BuildersSM (BB) Youth Program, created and led by Belmont, MA resident Jean Devine and fiscally sponsored by the Tiny Seed Project, Inc. 501(c)3.,

Biodiversity BuildersSM (BB) is a youth-driven environmental education program created and led by Belmont, MA resident Jean Devine (Devine Native Plantings, LLC) and fiscally sponsored by the Tiny Seed Project, Inc. 501(c) 3. Jean is an environmental educator, native-plant coach, and specialty landscaper.

Biodiversity BuildersSM (BB) is an environmental education program designed to inspire and empower youth to be Earth Stewards and make an ecological impact in their communities. BB is committed to inclusion and diversity in our programming by providing an accessible, six-week, paid environmental internship to 16 high school students from Arlington, Belmont and Cambridge, who reflect a diverse range of demographics and environmental knowledge and two college mentors. Students learn how to: build and restore biodiversity and local ecosystems; identify, install, and remove native and invasive plants; design gardens using native plants; operate a business where they collectively define mission, vision and values and implement a large native plant sales event; and advocate for nature-based solutions to climate change.

As a result, youth emerge proud of their accomplishments, confident in their ability to earn a salary while advocating for themselves, their communities, and our planet, and excited to share a self-directed project that expresses their individuality.

Outdoor Educator/Mentor: 20-25 hrs/ week. June 17 - August 9 (2 positions)

@\$18/hr. (Our program runs from July 2 - August 9th, but mentors are required two weeks prior for set up etc). The program is T-Fri, but mentors will be required to work up to 5 hours outside of the program on operations, helping students with independent projects, site maintenance and more.

Responsibilities: Working in Arlington, Belmont and Cambridge, college mentors lead students to remove invasive plants and install and maintain native plant gardens. Learn about native plants, landscaping techniques, and customer and community interactions. Work with staff to shape and deliver curriculum materials and model positive peer and customer interactions. Mentors will guide students to develop independent projects, help form a business model, and run a native plant sale at the end of the session. Almost all work takes place outside through summer weather conditions including

- heat/sun, humidity, and occasional rain. Some speakers will give talks inside and much of the business planning will occur indoors.

Position Requirements: Energetic and passionate about ecology and youth education. Excited about working outside/ getting your hands dirty. Experienced working with teens, and able to provide good judgment in a group setting. Participate in planning and training sessions, assist in setting up workspace/classroom. Ability to comfortably move through multiple roles. Self-motivated and works well alone and as part of a team. Environmental Science background and interest in ecological restoration helpful. Ability to carry 25 lbs, and learn as you go. Having your own vehicle is a plus.

JOIN US! BE A BIODIVERSITY BUILDERSM!

Any questions? Please contact Jean Devine
via email at jean@devinenativeplantings.com

APPLICANT INFORMATION: (Please print neatly)

Date: _____

FIRST NAME: _____ MI: ____ LAST NAME: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Email: _____

Applicant email: _____ Cell: _____

Best times to reach you? _____

Date of Birth: _____ // _____ // _____

ACADEMIC REFERENCE: (Please include a reference letter)

Title _____ Name: _____

School Name: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION (if under 21)

FIRST NAME: _____ MI: ____ LAST NAME: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

Please indicate the opportunities you are interested in. Position descriptions are attached. You can apply for both positions if you choose.

- Outdoor Educator/Mentor** (2 positions available) **BB curriculum and education Intern**

Application Checklist - please make sure your application is complete

- Cover letter attached. Describe your interests, courses, accomplishments, and the reasons you would feel like Biodiversity BuildersSM would be a good fit.
- Resumé attached.
- College Internship forms attached, if applicable.
- Letter of reference attached from academic advisor/work supervisor or other relevant person.

Application Permissions - please initial online for each item

- _____ **I have no medical conditions or allergies to poison ivy, bees, or grass that would prevent me from enjoying working outdoors.**
- _____ **I understand there will be close contact with bees/wasps and I will not hold DNP or BBSM accountable if I am stung**
- _____ I understand that I will be working outdoors in various types of weather doing manual labor, supervising, and mentoring teens.
- _____ I understand that safety (students' and my own) will be my first priority and that I will receive safety training from appropriate staff.
- _____ I will wear appropriate clothing as defined here: close-toed shoes, socks, pants/jeans/shorts (adequate coverage for working outside), sunhat or baseball cap. Be prepared to get dirty. Bring a water bottle and sunscreen.
- _____ I give permission to BBSM and DNP to publish my writings or drawings on their blog and website.
- _____ I give permission to BBSM and DNP to publish my photo in publications and on DNP's website.

Print Name: _____

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____

Complete and sign this form. Send form with items on checklist above to Jean Devine:

jean@devinenativeplantings.com