



devinenativeplantings.com/biodiversity-builders-education
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Inspiring Youth to be Earth Stewards and Improve Local Ecosystems through Project-Based Learning

Biodiversity BuildersSM High-school Application Package Summer 2024

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. It is created and led by Belmont, MA resident Jean Devine and fiscally sponsored by the Tiny Seed Project, Inc. 501(c)3. 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. 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. Students will learn from Devine's expertise as well as bee-cologists, local politicians, soil experts, watershed advocacy groups and more.

Over the course of six weeks, guided by Devine and two college mentors, the youth will work and learn: four days a week/ 3-4 hours a day. **Students will be joined by four Cambridge students, and together they will travel around Arlington, Belmont, and Cambridge working on native plant projects for clients, invasive removal, entrepreneurship, and citizen science at our new Alewife Showcase Biodiversity Pollinator Garden.** Each week will consist of **site work and content learning** to boost students' understanding of ecological restoration.

Students can earn up to **\$1,440 and work for a total 96 hours over the course of this session at a rate of \$15/hr.** The program will operate 4 days a week for 6 weeks with students working three 4-hour days and one 3-hour day, with 1 extra hour devoted to a personal project.

The program will run from Tuesday July 2nd - Friday August 9th. The schedule is: Tuesday-Thursday 10am-2pm, and Friday 10am-1pm with **one hour a week devoted to an independent project** (on your own schedule). **Tuesdays and Thursdays we will be in Belmont and Arlington and Wednesdays and Fridays we will be in Cambridge** either on a Field Trip or working on building a business that culminates in a native plant sales event.

**While we will prioritize applicants who can attend the entire session, please inquire if you have a conflict. (Students will still be eligible if they miss up to one week)*

*** Students must be able to arrive at work-sites by bike, car or public transportation (we can stipend bus/train travel). Meeting sites vary according to schedule.*

APPLICANT INFORMATION: (For students entering 10th

grade and above)

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:

FIRST NAME: _____ MI: ____ LAST NAME: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

Application Checklist - please ensure 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.
- 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 that bees and other pollinators will be present, and there is risk of getting stung. I will carry an epipen if I have one.
- _____ I understand that I will be working outdoors in various types of weather doing manual labor, and learning about native plants and pollinators.
- _____ I understand that safety 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: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

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

jean@devinenativeplantings.com



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LIABILITY WAIVER AND RELEASE FORM (MINOR CHILD) THIS IS A RELEASE OF LEGAL RIGHTS — READ AND UNDERSTAND BEFORE SIGNING

Name: _____

Address: _____

Emergency Parent Phone #: _____

Release of Liability & Waiver Agreement: In consideration of my child's participation in this student position, I agree that all activities undertaken by my child, are at his/her own risk, and that Biodiversity BuildersSM, Tiny Seed Project, and their employees, agents and volunteers, shall not be liable for any claim, demand, injury, damage, action, or causes, of action whatsoever to myself or my child or my property or my child's property due to the passive or active negligence of Biodiversity BuildersSM, its agents, employees, or volunteers, arising out of, connected with my or my child's participation in or the use of operation of equipment in this program and that I release and discharge Biodiversity BuildersSM, its agents, employees or volunteers from all such claims, demands, injuries, death, damages, actions or causes of action whatsoever. I understand that my signature is required before my child's participation in this program is allowed. I have read this Agreement carefully and know and understand its contents.

Permissions:

___ (check) I agree to allow my child to participate in the Biodiversity BuildersSM program.

___(Y/N) I agree to allow photographs that include my child be used for media coverage or the Devine Native Plantings/ Biodiversity BuildersSM website.

[Signature of Participant if 18 years or older or printed name of participant if under age 18]

_____ Date _____

[A Parent, Custodial Parent or Legal Guardian MUST Sign and Date (if participant is under age 18)]

_____ Date _____