



The Thielke Arboretum

Glen Rock, New Jersey

Teen Project Frequently Asked Questions

Procedures

What ages are appropriate for this program?

Anyone 13 years or older.

How do teens get started?

Complete the Thielke Arboretum Teen Project Form found on our website. A volunteer will follow up, and set a date to discuss the teen's interest and how the Arboretum can best support her or his work.

Are there prerequisites?

All Arboretum teen volunteers are required to do at least three hours of work on the land before beginning Arboretum related projects. This helps them to better understand the opportunities and challenges that face our native habitat.

Steward drop-in times are 9 am to 12 noon on Tuesdays and Saturdays, almost year-round. If there is a large group of teens, we may be able to schedule an additional time. Please check the website for any updates or changes. ***Please submit a [Teen Project Registration Form](#) before doing Steward work so that we can link your work to your project.***

What is the cost for doing a Teen Project?

At this time, there is no cost for residents to participate in these projects. However, if teens decide to do work that incurs cost, they will be responsible for that cost. For example, if they want to send water or soil samples for testing, they will be responsible for managing their project and the related costs.

Who is the Arboretum teacher for these activities?

Arboretum volunteers will help teens use the Arboretum and Environmental Education Center space to learn and explore nature and environmental issues. Please contact our lead volunteer at teens@glenrockarboretum.org



The Thielke Arboretum

Glen Rock, New Jersey

Projects

What exactly do the projects include?

There are several subject areas that we support: Stewards (working on the land), Education, Research, and Innovation. Teens can work with an Arboretum volunteer to create or select an individual project that suits their interests, talents, and time.

What are the dates and activities for the projects?

These projects can be done whenever fits a teen's schedule. Depending on the topic, teens may want to plan for the Steward drop-in time, be trained as a Docent, stop in at the Friday Night Open Lab, or plan a more specific project. They can work with our teen program volunteers to organize their work.

What do Stewards do?

Our native habitat supports our native birds, bees, and other wildlife. Stewards work to restore the land, and this includes: promoting conservation and native habitats, prevent harmful or invasive species, maintaining existing gardens, maintaining natural habitats for wildlife.

Explain the "Educating Others" projects?

The Arboretum had over 1,000 visitors in 2017, and we are on track to have more in the years ahead. We want to inspire others to learn about the environment, and see how they can better support healthy habitats. Teens that help with this project create educational experiences for visitors that might teach about the plants, animals, soil and water at the Arboretum; provide content on related topics; and share best practices for home gardening or landscapes.

What do Docents do?

Docents lead small groups of children and adults on educational walks through the Arboretum. These walks are focused on exploring the environment of the Arboretum with its unique habitats; the goal being to develop an awareness and appreciation of the natural world.