



Calling all recruits!

Shedd Aquarium is looking for a few good men and women (and more!) to volunteer half a day to help create a new garden at the aquarium honoring fellow veterans and Gold Star mothers.

Shedd values the service veterans have given our country and proudly supports the hiring of returning service members and military spouses. Now we'd like to expand our reach.

We're calling out to veterans in our area to join in "gardener brigades", teams of volunteers who will dig and plant a small garden on Shedd's north lawn facing Lake Michigan. Under the supervision of our landscape manager, volunteer vets will spend a few hours in October, preparing the soil and planting 30,000 spring-blooming bulbs in shades of yellow, gold and white to honor Gold Star mothers. A second corps of volunteers will be needed in spring of 2016 to add summer-blooming annuals or perennials to this garden. Once completed, this phase of the memory garden will showcase a variety of plantings in red, white, blue and gold designed to pay tribute to our veterans.

All the necessary tools will be provided. As a special thank-you, we will provide lunch and admission (for volunteers only) to explore Shedd before or after the work detail.

Here's the timetable:

- Thursday, Oct. 22 will be the first workday. (In case of inclement weather, work will take place on Friday, Oct. 23).
- The workday will be broken into a morning shift from 8 to 11 a.m. and an afternoon shift from 1 to 4 p.m.
- Lunch will be provided between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to allow both volunteer groups to connect with one another and with our staff members.
- Those on the morning shift can use the time after lunch to explore the Shedd.
- Those working the afternoon session can arrive as early as 9 a.m. to visit with the animals before having lunch and lacing up their garden boots to work from 1 to 4 p.m.
- In the spring of 2016 a similar workday with two shifts will be scheduled.

We would like to recruit 60 volunteers for each workday, or 30 per shift. Space is limited! For more information and to sign up, please email Susan Barton at sbarton@sheddaquarium.org. Shedd's new garden, planted for and by veterans, will be visible from the land, water and sky. This is a chance to be part of a great project!