



VOLUNTEER ROLE DESCRIPTION

VOLUNTEER ROLE	Gardening Club Assistant
PROGRAM	Gardening Club – Frankston North
DIRECTORATE	Children’s Programs
REPORTS TO	Enhancement Activities Lead
VOLUNTEER HOURS	3 hours per session – negotiable

ORGANISATIONAL PURPOSE

The Brotherhood of St Laurence (BSL) employs over 1200 staff and is supported by approximately 1200 volunteers. Our work is focused in Melbourne and Victoria but branches out through our partners to every state and territory in Australia.

In contemporary Australia, poverty and disadvantage have a strong geographic dimension. The focus of our work is increasingly on places as well as groups of people experiencing hardship such as early school leavers and the unemployed. We create programs which prevent and alleviate poverty during four key life transitions: childhood, adolescence, midlife and retirement.

One of our priorities is to work with state and federal governments and other community organisations to scale up our successful programs. The Brotherhood’s approach is informed by the best evidence, including the work of our own research and policy department.

PROGRAM PURPOSE

The Frankston North Education Plan (FNEP) aims to improve the quality of education provision across the Frankston North community in the early, primary and secondary years; along with enabling parents to volunteer in extended school day programs, participate in adult learning opportunities and enhance their learning and employment pathways. Meeting the FNEP’s Extended School Day Model, BSL is implementing a collaborative approach to bring together partners, stakeholders and activities to support education programs and student engagement across 3 sites: Aldercourt Primary School, Mahogany Rise Primary School and Monterey Secondary College.

The Enhancement Activities Program is aligned to this fundamental objective and recognises that the experience of poverty is complex and not only involves economic hardship but exclusion from many aspects of social and civic life. The Enhancement Activities Program encompasses multi-generational and diverse learning opportunities. It aims to support disengaged students to improve connection to the school community and their engagement with learning opportunities, by providing a coordinated approach to before, during and after school activities. Sharing resources across 3 school sites, this program will enhance and extend the child’s school day through academic, personal and social opportunities, breaking the cycle of disadvantage and school disengagement.

ROLE PURPOSE

Gardening Club is a great way to learn new skills, have fun and develop self confidence through tending plants and growing food. In a school garden students learn how to grow, care for, harvest and prepare a variety of fruit, vegetables and herbs. Young people take pride in growing and using fresh produce they have cared for and harvested in the cooking program.

As a Gardening Club Assistant you will be a part of a team to support students to grow, tend and harvest food produce as well as supporting students to build gardening skills in a friendly, non-threatening and supportive environment.

ROLE TASKS

Operational duties include:

- Record and report attendance, set up, pack up and cleaning as required
- Monitor resources, sort resources, and replenish as required
- Set up, monitor and pack up Suggestion box and Signage

Lead Facilitation duties include:

- Support students to learn and apply gardening skills and knowledge
- Assist students to understand the plant cycle, set goals and produce their own produce
- Facilitate gardening activities

Engagement duties include:

- Talking and listening to students
- Collecting student feedback through conversations, suggestions and activities
- Monitoring how students feel and behave

Relevant duties for all roles include:

- Supervision of students within the program
- Maintaining a safe learning/social environment
- Complete Incident Reports as required
- Volunteer Feedback to Enhancement Activities Lead as required
- Read and update Communication Book
- Other duties as required

WE ARE LOOKING FOR

We are looking for volunteers with:

- Commitment and interest in supporting children and young people
- Passion and applied experience in growing, tending, harvesting plants / vegetable garden
- Well-developed interpersonal and communication skills with the ability to relate and interact well with children and young people
- Demonstrated capacity to contribute to a team environment
- Commitment to the objectives and ongoing development of the program
- Understanding of and commitment to the values and ideals of the BSL

ORGANISATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Internal Liaisons: BSL staff and volunteers

External Liaisons: Students and school staff

CONDITIONS OF VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT

- 1. This role requires both police and working with children checks. Your volunteer role will not begin until the necessary checks are complete.
- 2. Volunteers are requested to take responsibility for their own and others' workplace health and safety and to adhere to policies which keep the Brotherhood of St Laurence a workplace committed to equal opportunity, free from discrimination and harassment.
- 3. All Brotherhood volunteers must be eligible to volunteer in Australia.

AGREEMENTS

I understand that I am a volunteer who contributes my time and effort without expectation of remuneration.

I understand that as a volunteer I am required to adhere to Brotherhood of St Laurence policies, procedures and the code of ethical behavior.

In the event of injury sustained in performing my volunteer role I understand that I can make a claim against the Brotherhood of St Laurence's insurance policy for 85% of my non-Medicare costs up to the relevant policy maximums. Activities taken on my own initiative outside of this role are at my own risk.

I undertake to keep all personal or sensitive information about customers and participants, other volunteers and the BSL team in the strictest confidence by only discussing such details within the bounds necessary to undertake my duties and responsibilities as a volunteer with the Brotherhood of St Laurence.

Volunteer Name: _____

Volunteer Signature: _____ Date: _____

Supervisor Name: _____

Supervisor Signature: _____ Date: _____