PAL Partners have fun and engage with their peers, staff, and guests, while carrying out a variety of responsibilities:

- Assist with Discovery Carts and other engaging outdoor activities—among them; monitoring toy boats in the Great Lakes Garden, assisting with clay sculptures using artists’ tools, host painting kanji characters with water, reading to guests alongside sculptures, and showing which animal tracks match to which pelt.
- Gather materials for and monitor special presentations by artists, musicians, scientists, and story-time presenters.
- Straighten and maintain the Rock Quarry, Tree House Village, Beaver Lodge, Log Cabin and Story-Telling Hut and assorted materials.
- Work with Children’s Garden staff to provide fun and memorable experiences for all guests.

Application Process:

1. To be eligible, applicants must be at least 14 years old OR entering ninth to 12th grade in the fall.
2. Only one application is required for spring, summer and fall volunteering. Fill out the application by downloading it from our website: MeijerGardens.org/involved/volunteer
3. Include three letters of recommendation (teacher, volunteer or work experience) and a paragraph written by you explaining why you want to be a PAL Partner. Make sure your application is complete and turned in by the deadlines listed below.
4. After we review your complete application, you will be contacted by email for an interview. Interviews will take place after school. You will be notified of program acceptance by email, the same week. Applicants are required to attend an orientation and training.

Spring Deadline:
Sunday, February 12, 5 pm.

Summer Deadline:
Monday, May 22, 5 pm.

Fall Deadline:
Monday, August 7, 5 pm.

Spring: PAL Partners volunteer a total of seven shifts in the spring two half-day weekend shifts per month, beginning in March, and one half-day special event shift in March, April, or May. Interviews will be held the week of February 12, and those accepted must attend an orientation and training.

Summer: PAL Partners volunteer a total of 13 shifts in the summer, beginning June 12, and one half-day weekend or one Tuesday evening shift per month for June, July, and August. (Exceptions can be made for family vacations.) Interviews will be held the week of May 28, and those accepted must attend an orientation and training.

Fall: PAL Partners volunteer a total of seven shifts in the fall, beginning in September, and one half-day special event shift September, October, or November. Interviews will be held the week of August 13, and those accepted must attend an orientation and training.

Work in all 10 themed areas of the Lena Meijer Children’s Garden, gain valuable experience, make new friends, fulfill school requirements, add to your resume, and have fun!
“I got to experience new things and learned to interact with other people, this is something that I would definitely recommend to others.”

“I’ve met wonderful people from all walks of life with different stories to tell; I also share mine and they listen.”

“Thank you for this amazing opportunity for me to gain leadership skills, learn about new things, and most of all, have fun.”
Join the Fun!
Discover the excitement! Volunteer on our Education team. Become a Lena Meijer Children’s Garden PAL Partner this spring, summer or fall!

PAL (PLAY ACTIVITY LEADER) PARTNER APPLICATION 2023

Review requirements. Check the box for the season you are applying for:

SPRING. Application Deadline: Sunday, February 12, by 5 pm

PAL Partners volunteer a total of seven shifts in the spring, beginning in March, and one half-day special event shift in mid-February, March, April, or May. Interviews will be held as applications are accepted starting March, and those accepted must attend an evening orientation on Tuesday, February 21, and an afternoon training on Saturday, March 4.

SUMMER. Application Deadline: Monday, May 22, by 5 pm

PAL Partners volunteer a total of 13 shifts in the summer, beginning June 12, and one half-day weekend or one Tuesday evening shift per month for June, July, and August. (Exceptions can be made for family vacations.) Interviews will be held the week of May 28, and those accepted must attend a morning orientation on Saturday, June 3, and an evening training on Tuesday, June 6.

FALL. Application Deadline: Monday, August 7, by 5 pm

PAL Partners volunteer a total of seven shifts in the fall, beginning in September, and one half-day special event shift in September, October, or November. Interviews will be held the week of August 13, and those accepted must attend an afternoon peer training on Saturday, August 19 and an evening orientation on Tuesday, August 22.

T-Shirt size: __________

Requirements:
To be eligible, applicants must be at least 14 years old OR entering ninth to 12th grade in the fall. Those accepted will be required to attend both orientation and training.

Please be sure you can attend the scheduled dates for your season of application.

Complete this application form if you are interested in volunteering at Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park as a PAL Partner.

STUDENT INFORMATION

Name (First and Last): ________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________

City: __________________________ State: __________ ZIP: __________

Home phone: __________________________ Cell Phone: __________________________

Email address (Student): ________________________________

Date of birth: __________________________ Age: __________

School you will be attending next year: __________________________ Grade: __________
APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Shifts are Monday through Saturday, 9 am–1 pm or 1–5 pm. In the Summer, there are additional evening hours, 5–9 pm on Tuesdays. Sunday shifts are 11 am–3 pm or 1–5 pm. Pending approval, which days and shifts would you prefer to volunteer?

How did you find out about this program?

Do you have experience working with the public?   Yes   No

Have you volunteered before? If so, please tell us when and where.

DESCRIPTIVE PARAGRAPH

Please provide a brief paragraph describing your interest in the PAL Partner Program. What do you hope to gain by participating and why should you be selected as a PAL Partner?

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Please list the names of three people you have asked to submit a letter of recommendation in support of your application.

Name: ____________________________________________  Email/Phone: __________________________________________________________________________

Name: ____________________________________________  Email/Phone: __________________________________________________________________________

Name: ____________________________________________  Email/Phone: __________________________________________________________________________

These references should not come from family members. You may ask teachers, coaches, neighbors, employers, religious leaders, et cetera. Be sure to attach these letters to your application and submit them by email (preferred) to LaStar Alicea at lalicea@meijergardens.org or mail them to the address listed below:

Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park; LMCG PAL Partner Program
Attention: LaStar Alicea at LMCG
1000 East Beltline NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49525
PARENT/GUARDIAN EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Name (First and Last): _______________________________________________ Relationship: ______________

Address: _______________________________________________________________________________________

City: __________________________________________ State: __________________________ ZIP: _____________

Home phone: ___________________________ Cell phone: ___________________________ Work phone: _______________

Email address (Parent/Guardian): ________________________________

SIGNATURE

By entering our names below I acknowledge that I, myself, and my parent/guardian understand all the requirements of the PAL Partner Program.

____________________________________________ Date: _________________
Parent/guardian signature

____________________________________________ Date: _________________
Student signature

After we receive your complete application, applicants being considered will be contacted for an interview. After the interview process, you will be notified of program acceptance by email, the same week.

IMPORTANT DATES

Spring Applicants
- Applications due: Sunday, February 12
- Interviews: Week of February 12
- Orientation and training: Tuesday evening, February 21, and Saturday afternoon, March 4

Summer Applicants
- Applications due: Monday, May 22
- Interviews: Week of May 28
- Orientation and training: Saturday morning, June 3, and Tuesday evening, June 6

Fall Applicants
- Applications due: Monday, August 7
- Interviews: Week of August 13
- Orientation and training: Saturday afternoon, August 19, and Tuesday evening, August 22

Work in all 10 themed areas of the Lena Meijer Children’s Garden, gain valuable experience, make new friends, fulfill school requirements, add to your resume, and have fun!