Role Description: Plant Mounter Volunteer- Botanical Collections
12.2023

Overview:
Plant mounters are essential to the continued growth of the herbarium’s collections. In the field, plant specimens are pressed and dried between sheets of newspaper. After returning from collecting trips, labels are printed and the specimens are sent out to different herbaria. Upon arrival at an herbarium, the specimens must be mounted onto archival paper before they can become part of the herbarium official collections. Once the plants are mounted, researchers can use the specimens to document changes in species and even identify undescribed species. Although gluing pressed plants onto paper may sound like an easy job, it can be quite tedious and requires attention to detail and thoughtful planning. Plant mounters must attach the plants to the sheets in a manner that displays all important characteristics while being both tidy and aesthetically pleasing, which is not always easy or straightforward.

Duties and Responsibilities:
- The volunteer will use various methods to adhere dried plant specimens and corresponding collection notes to archival paper. The volunteer will be trained to recognize important characteristics that should be displayed.

Volunteer Qualifications:
- Volunteers must have attention to detail and be well organized. This position will require that the volunteer sits at a desk for the majority of their time. All three plant mounters will work together so volunteers must be able to get along well with others.
- All education levels are welcome. Familiarity with plants, either through education, profession, or simply as a hobby, is preferred. Background in art, or any field that requires spatial organization is more important than having a scientific background.

Hours and Time Commitment:
- Wednesday 10-2 (if desired, volunteers can work additional days once they are trained).
- 3 volunteers are needed.
- Applicants who can provide a long-term commitment of 8 months to one year will receive priority upon placement.

Physical Demands and Requirements:
- Manual dexterity and good eyesight.
- Volunteers must be able to sit at a desk for three to four hours at a time.
- Volunteers must be physically able to respond to alarms and/or emergencies.