



D E L A W A R E

CENTER FOR
HORTICULTURE

Cultivating a greener community

2008

Horticultural & Environmental Leadership Program (H.E.L.P.)

STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET

2008 H.E.L.P. INFORMATION

The Horticultural and Environmental Leadership Program (H.E.L.P.) will focus middle-school students on environmental issues in their urban community. The program is based at the Delaware Center for Horticulture (DCH). Topics such as public speaking, cultural awareness, critical thinking, team work, problem solving and civic responsibility will be covered. Greening and horticultural activities will be part of the curriculum as they pertain to solutions to environmental problems.

Eleven students, along with two mentors from 2007 H.E.L.P., will comprise H.E.L.P. The 2008 class will run **July 14th through August 15th, weekdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and longer on field trip days**. The program format will include environmentally focused field trips, service-learning projects, leadership development activities, group projects and local professionals and community members who will speak to the students about relevant topics. A teacher will lead the class with assistance from the H.E.L.P. Coordinator and Education Manager at DCH. Major events of the 2008 H.E.L.P. include a reunion/garden clean-up, an open house, an overnight camping trip and graduation.

SELECTION CRITERIA

For students who will be **entering eighth grade in the 2008-2009 school year**. DCH will select students based on the following (in no particular order)::

- Academic achievement (C+/80% average or better)
- Teacher recommendation
- Classroom conduct and behavior
- Interest in science, human health, plants, community and the environment
- Financial need (students must be part of the school reduced lunch program)

STUDENT BENEFITS

Students will receive a well-rounded environmental education, opportunities to develop leadership and job skills, and increased public speaking abilities. Also, students have the chance to collaborate with ten students and two returning graduates of the program. The students are provided with a monetary stipend of \$300. DART bus passes will be available to students who need them.

STUDENT REPONSIBILITIES

We fully intend for H.E.L.P. to be fun as well as educational. The success of this program depends on the total participation and cooperation of each student. Students are expected to attend each session, arrive on time, actively participate, and exhibit interest in environmental issues. They will attend the reunion, open house, graduation, and special events, and they will have fun!

Students may only miss one day during the program, so please take summer vacations into account. Students must participate in the graduation and complete the final project in order to receive their stipend.

Questions? Please contact Nathan Blumenfeld at (302) 658-6262 ext.118 or nblumenfeld@dehort.org



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PARENTAL PERMISSION AND SUPPORT

A child's parent or legal guardian must give permission for the child to participate in this program. A permission slip will be mailed along with the acceptance letter. In order to participate **the student and a parent/legal guardian must attend the Open House**. The date and time will be provided in acceptance letters, but it is usually scheduled the week before the H.E.L.P. program begins in July.

SPEAKERS

To give the students an opportunity to learn from diverse sources, local professionals and community members will talk with the students in H.E.L.P., sharing their knowledge on such environmental topics as pollution, wetlands, organic farming, secondhand smoke, hazardous waste, wildlife, horticulture, gardening, and many others. Speakers may also teach and provide hands-on activities about such topics as job skills, community activism, and leadership.

EXTENDED LEARNING EXPERIENCES (Field Trips)

Students will participate in at least one field trip per week. These trips are used to supplement the in-class education and include environmental as well as cultural activities. The trips typically last beyond the normal program time. Parents/legal guardians are notified in advance of the location and time schedule. Field trips in past years have included Longwood Gardens, Winterthur, Delaware State Parks, Wilmington Community Gardens, Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, Stroud Water Research Center, Delaware History Museum, and Maysie's Farm Conservation Center.

PROGRAM EVENTS

In the classroom sessions held at the Delaware Center for Horticulture, 13 students will do hands-on activities with the teacher and the AmeriCorps*VISTA program coordinator, participate in team-building activities, and create individual and group projects to be presented at the end of the program.

Students should plan on attending the program events, which include:

Reunion: Friday, June 20, 2008, 11a.m.-1:30p.m.: an opportunity to meet graduates of the program.

Open House: Usually scheduled the week before H.E.L.P. begins in July, this is a required session for both students and parents/legal guardians to become oriented to the program and its requirements, and to fill out necessary forms.

Graduation: Scheduled for Friday, August 15, 2008. All participants who successfully complete the program will graduate, receive a certificate of achievement and their stipend. Students will conduct a presentation on an environmental topic, and will also display other projects completed during the program. Parents/legal guardians, family members, teachers, principals and friends are encouraged to attend to celebrate this achievement.



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STUDENT CHECKLIST

- ✓ Read the **H.E.L.P. Student Information Sheet**

- ✓ If you want to participate in 2008 H.E.L.P. please submit the following :
 - Application**
 - Questionnaire**
 - A copy of a recent report card**
 - Recommendation forms** – Your science teacher or guidance teacher needs to fill this out so ask ahead of time!

- ✓ Mail or fax all of the completed forms by **April 25, 2008** to:

Education VISTA
Delaware Center for Horticulture
1810 N. Dupont Street
Wilmington, DE 19806

FAX (302) 658-6267

Please contact Nathan Blumenfeld at (302) 658-6262 ext.118 or nblumenfeld@dehort.org if you, your teachers, or your parent/guardian have any questions.



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STUDENT APPLICATION

Please return completed application, questionnaire, recommendation form, and copy of a recent report card to:

Education VISTA
 Delaware Center for Horticulture
 1810 N. DuPont Street
 Wilmington, DE 19806

All application materials must be received by April 25, 2008

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name _____ SSN _____
 First MI Last

Home Address _____
 Street City State ZIP

Phone (____) _____ Age ____ School Grade ____

Name of School _____

School Phone (____) _____

Are you part of your school's reduced or free lunch program? ____ Yes ____ No

PLEDGE OF COMMITMENT

If selected to participate in the 2008 Horticultural and Environmental Leadership Program (H.E.L.P), I pledge to demonstrate an interest in environmental issues. I commit to work for the entire five weeks of the program, and to maintain a positive attitude in order to benefit from this experience.

 Signature of Parent or Guardian

 Signature of Student

 Date

 Date

Please return this form by April 25, 2008

Questions? Please contact Nathan Blumenfeld at (302) 658-6262 ext.118 or nblumenfeld@dehort.org



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D. Leadership positions, clubs, teams, or organizations I belong to:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

E. What environmental issues are you interested in?

F. What questions do you have about this program?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

STUDENT SELF NOMINATION

Please state in 75 words or fewer why you want to participate in this program and how it may help you in the future.

Please return this form by April 25, 2008

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RECOMMENDATION FORM

Student Name _____

First

MI

Last

SCIENCE TEACHER OR GUIDANCE COUNSELOR RECOMMENDATION

Name _____

First

MI

Last

Phone _____

Please submit explanation of why you recommend this student to be a participant for 2008 H.E.L.P.

Signature _____

Please return this form by April 25, 2008
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