**VISTA Gardens’ Member Agreement**

As a member, I agree to promote and support VISTA Gardens’ mission: “To provide education and to serve as a sustainable model for organic gardening, native landscaping, and related technologies while providing opportunities to participate in healthy outdoor activities, responsible environmental leadership, growing organic food, and community building.”

Since my participation beyond my own plot is what defines VISTA Gardens, I agree to the following:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Member Initials** |  |
| **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | 1. To learn and practice organic sustainable gardening
 |
| **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | 1. To observe reasonable safety precautions and report any unsafe conditions or activities to the Garden Committee Chair.
 |
| **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | 1. To protect our property. Gates, shed and equipment should be kept locked to prevent access by unauthorized persons. Ensure all water valves are closed upon leaving.
 |
| **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | 1. To be responsible for the safety and behavior of all guests and those I authorize to tend my plot.
 |
| **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | 1. To sign the Liability Waiver.
 |
| **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | 1. VISTA Gardens believes in the honor system. I will be a good neighbor and neighbors will be good to me. I will keep my garden space (inside and outside) free from weeds, pests and disease, and return all shared tools to their appropriate place in better condition than I found them.
 |
| **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | 1. To remove all vegetation and plant a cover crop (or less preferably, cover the soil) in the summer months (June-August) and continue to maintain the pathways and other shared garden areas during this break or seek approval from the Garden Committee for an exception.
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| **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | 1. To not make any changes or alterations in the community property (areas outside the perimeter of the garden plots) without prior Board approval.
 |
| **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | 1. To agree that VISTA reserves the authority to take preventative action and trim items that grow outside of the bed walls, mass spray for fungus, and other general garden maintenance items that impact the garden’s overall health.
 |

Additionally, in accordance with the VISTA Board’s desire to keep dues low and to support our mission of creating community while providing opportunities for personal growth, I agree to participate, support or lead in the following:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Member Initials** |  |
| **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | 1. Volunteer for general garden upkeep and/or committee work at least two hours monthly.
 |
| **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | 1. The non-physical operational and educational function of the garden by joining and supporting one of the many committees (see attached) or proposing to the Garden Committee Chair and implementing an approved independent project.
 |
| **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | 1. The assistance with gardening activities to support members with differing physical capabilities and personal situations, helping fellow members as opportunities arise.
 |
| **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | 1. The tending and planting in my bed within 2 weeks of joining, unless receiving prior approval from the Garden Committee. I otherwise automatically forfeit my bed and dues. I understand that a plot left unattended becomes a problem for the whole garden and requires precious volunteer hours to rehab and maintain.
 |
| **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | 1. The creation and maintenance of a beautiful garden consistent with the community at large.
 |
| **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | 1. The physical work of maintaining common areas, amenities, infrastructure, and any vacant plots.
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**Summary acknowledgment:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | I understand that neglecting my plot or expecting others to tend to weeds, plant disease, or harvest in and adjacent to my garden bed is a failure to comply with the membership agreement and can result in the loss of my garden bed at VISTA Gardens. |

**Beds are owned by VISTA Gardens, which gives the right of usage to seasonal gardeners who comply with the agreements of membership. By signing this form, I agree to the “VISTA Gardens’ Member Agreement.” Dues/fees are not refundable.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | **I acknowledge that VISTA’s premises contain bees and I will exercise caution to avoid any accidents related to the bees and will not hold VISTA liable.**  |

**Name (Print**)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Signature**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Date \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Phone Number (\_\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**E-mail address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Additional Family Member Names (Print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Committee Selection:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | **I agree to volunteer a minimum of 2 hours per month to support VISTA Gardens and select the following committee to participate in:**  |
| **Compost** | **Marketing** | **Education** | **Social** | **Membership** | **Volunteer** | **Communication** |
| **Infrastructure** | **Wildflower** | **Garden** | **Herb** | **Flower** | **Pond** | **Seedlings** |

**Please select your membership option:**

**( ) $150 for a 4’x16’ Raised Bed Annual Membership, September 1 - July 31, 2024.**

**( ) $80 for a 4’x8’ Raised Bed Annual Membership, September 1 - July 31, 2024.**

**( ) Included is my optional tax-deductible donation of $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

Membership dues can be paid by cash, check or online. Cash or check (made out to VISTA Gardens) can be placed in the locked mailbox in our garden shed or pay online via Paypal at <https://www.vistagardentampa.org/shop>. A handling fee is included in the total cost.

**Bed Assigned (if known): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

In support of the VISTA Gardens’ community, below are the current committees with which to volunteer.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Description** | **Chair** |
| **Compost** | Turn & sift to create composted soil for the garden. | Becca Petrilakres05dgx@verizon.netRolfe Evensonrolfe4108@yahoo.com |
| **Marketing/Community Relations** | Promote the garden to the community and find fund raising opportunities. | OPEN |
| **Education** | Identify opportunities to bring in people to teach organic gardening techniques, nutrition and other appropriate topics. | Evans Bostickebostick@verizon.netSusan Baxter Gibsonsbgibson1975@outlook.com |
| **Social** | Create fun activities for the membership outside of gardening. | Laurie Kleinerlauriek123@gmail.com |
| **Membership** | Maintain seasonal and social memberships. Respond to prospective member contacts, greet and tour prospective members, enroll new members, and collaborate with the Garden Committee to provide membership orientation. | Keshia ArlinghausKeshia.Arlinghaus@gmail.com |
| **Volunteer** | Recruit & manage recurring and special event volunteers. | Mike Arnoldmarnold1101@gmail.com |
| **Communications** | Create, distribute and maintain distribution list for VISTA Matters newsletter (mid Aug – mid June). Build and maintain content on the [vistagardentampa.org](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5COwner%5CDesktop%5CVISTA%20Gardens%5CMembership%5Cvistagardentampa.org) web site. Curate and monitor social media presence on Facebook, Instagram and Pinterest. | Marc Perkins-Carrillotampaliving13606@gmail.com |
| **Infrastructure** | Maintenance of equipment, infrastructure and other assets. Landscape design and grounds maintenance. | Marty Kleinermartink4321@gmail.com |
| **Wildflowers** | Maintenance of Florida wildflowers.  | Roberta Owenslegacyofcaring.ro@gmail.com |
| **Garden Committee****Includes:****House of the Rising Seedlings** **Herb Container Garden** **Flower Garden** **Garden Pond** | Plan and coordinate the tending of shared areas (entrance plantings, herb container garden, pollinator gardens, native plant landscape, Little Free Library, bird houses and feeders) and assist gardeners in growing vegetables, fruits, and flowers organically.Organize & maintain the HRS. Seed and raise plants for garden members.Seed, transplant, and tend herbs. Develop plant information resources.Plant and tend 500 sq. ft. garden, including wildflower, edible and cut flower sections.Maintain garden pond. | Evans Bostickebostick@verizon.net Mark GardinerGardiner61@yahoo.comKaren Rosekewrose@gmail.comRichard and Donna Birnholzrbirnholz@zedek.orgJanet StankoJanestan@bellsouth.net |