

# Arboretum Ambassadors

*New friendly faces in the landscape ready to enhance your visit*

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The verdant, rolling landscape of the Arnold Arboretum invites wonder, and it can be wonderfully diverting to lose oneself in the solitude of nature. Sometimes, though, a little help from the inside can prove handy when, let's say, you need to find Poplar Gate (it welcomes visitors to the northeastern corner of Peters Hill) or would like to pay a visit to a dove tree (look for an outstanding example on Bussey Hill in the Explorers Garden). Public accommodation, accessibility, and comfort are essential to the Arboretum's mission as an outdoor museum, and guide our efforts to engage the public as a free park open to all. This summer the Arboretum introduced a couple of new faces to provide an even more welcoming and informative environment for everyone who visits our landscape—the Arboretum Ambassadors.

Each year, approximately 300,000 people pass through our gates to visit the Arboretum, seeking a tranquil green space, a safe haven to walk with a friend or animal companion, or a chance to get close to nature. Though as you know, this place offers so much more than a walk in the park. We want more visitors to know that the Arboretum also hosts one of the most comprehensive and best-documented collection of woody trees, shrubs, and vines anywhere. Visitors think differently about the trees they encounter here when they find out that hundreds of scientists study them every year to expand what we know about the world around us. They also discover more ways to get involved when they learn that we bring thousands of Boston Public School students to the collections to learn about science, or that we track the seasonal life cycles of many of our plants to better understand climate change. Arboretum Ambassadors are helping us to spread the word.



Arboretum Ambassadors offer friendly assistance to Arboretum visitors.

So who are the Arboretum Ambassadors? You can't miss them in their white shirts—emblazoned on the back with “Ambassador”—chatting with visitors, sharing a map, or making their way across the grounds on foot or by cart. Their mission? Extending the friendly assistance and helpful guidance provided by our Visitor Center staff across the breadth of our 281-acre landscape. Wayfinding can be a snap when you spy one of our map tables on the grounds or access our Arboretum Explorer map application on your cellphone. If you are unaware of these resources, an Ambassador can help. They can also lend a hand in preventing tree-climbing, off-road biking, off-leash dogs, vandalism, and other potentially damaging or dangerous activities that might jeopardize the safety of our visitors and our collections. While the Arboretum's security remains the responsibility of Boston's Police, Park Rangers, and Animal Control, our Ambassadors represent a vital link between the public and these essential services. Most of all, our Ambassadors avail themselves to making your visit more special, memorable, and fulfilling, both for first-time visitors and neighbors who explore daily.

Whether lending a hand in finding a lost child to sharing the time and place of our next Tree Mob™ or theme tour, Arboretum Ambassadors can enrich the way you experience and learn from this landscape. We want our Ambassadors to become an integral part of our community, sharing what makes the Arboretum unique and extraordinary while making it more accessible to learning and adventure. Say hello the next time you spot one of our Ambassadors on the job—they are present seven days a week, every day of the year, and ready to make your acquaintance. 🌿