

Squirrel Hill Neighborhood Tree Captain: Roles and Responsibilities

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Neighborhood Tree Captains are passionate individuals who play a crucial role for designated streets in promoting tree care and advocacy within our community, serving as an extension of the Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition Tree Committee. Ideal candidates should be [Certified Tree Tenders](#) with a deep love for trees and a strong desire to make a positive impact on their street and neighborhood.

Responsibilities:

1. Tree Advocacy and Education:

- Serve as a tree advocate within your community, raising awareness about the importance of trees and their benefits.
- Educate residents on proper tree care practices, including pruning, watering, and mulching.
- Provide information on tree-related issues, such as pests, diseases, and invasive species.
- Encourage residents to plant and care for trees on their properties.

2. Tree Care Encouragement:

- Promote good tree care practices among residents by sharing best practices and resources.
- Encourage residents to hire certified arborists for tree care services.
- Help residents identify tree-related problems and connect them with the appropriate resources.

3. Tree Request Forms and Communication:

- Collect [tree request forms](#) for submission in the bi-annual Tree Vitalize Grant application submitted by SHUC on behalf of the community.
- Communicate tree-related concerns and requests to the Tree Committee for review and action.
- Keep residents informed about the status of their tree requests and any actions taken.

4. Volunteer Activities:

- Help organize and participate in tree-related volunteer activities, such as tree plantings, pruning, and mulching projects.
- Recruit volunteers from the community to assist with tree care and advocacy initiatives.
- Coordinate with the Tree Committee to ensure volunteer activities are safe, efficient, and beneficial to the community.

5. Collaboration and Initiatives:

- Collaborate with the Tree Committee to develop and implement tree-related initiatives, such as educational workshops, tree inventories, and neighborhood greening projects.
- Provide input and feedback on tree-related policies and regulations to the Tree Committee.
- Work with local organizations and businesses to promote tree care and advocacy in the community.

Resources:

To enhance their knowledge and skills, Community Tree Captains can access the following resources:

- **SHUC Tree Committee Member**, Eddie Shaw will walk your block, answer questions about trees, make suggestions about location and help you connect with your neighbors. Email parks@shuc.org to set up a time.
- **Tree Pittsburgh:** www.treepittsburgh.org - Provides information on tree care, tree planting, and tree-related events.
- **Tree Vitalize Grant Program:** www.treepittsburgh.org/tree-vitalize-grant-program - Offers financial assistance to communities and organizations for tree planting and tree care projects. This is the grant program that the Squirrel Hill Tree Committee applies for twice a year.
- **Certified Tree Tender Program:** www.treepittsburgh.org/certified-tree-tender-program - Provides training and certification for individuals interested in becoming tree advocates and educators.