Shaw Institute for Field Training (SIFT) Program
Summer 2015 and Academic Year 2015-2016

The SIFT program is a one-week summer field training experience at Shaw Nature Reserve combined with additional training and field work activities during the following school year.

During the summer, teens are introduced to a variety of Missouri ecosystems and gain skills necessary to conduct field research, including plant and animal identifications, biotic sampling and census techniques, testing of abiotic factors, and training in the use of GPS.

During the school year, teens are involved in important research and restoration activities including invasive species management, prairie reconstruction, plant and animal inventories, and prescribed burns.

**Participation in the SIFT program entails ALL of the following activities:**

1. Attendance at the SIFT orientation session (May 3, 2015, 1:00-2:00 pm),
2. Completion of a 1-week summer field training program including one overnight from Thursday to Friday (June 22-26, 2015),
3. Attendance at two all-day Saturday sessions during the 2015-16 school year (September 19, 2015 and March 5, 2016),
4. Attendance at the SIFT Winter Weekend (January 23-24, 2016), and
5. Participation in field project opportunities during summer 2015 and academic year 2015-16, for which teens will be paid a stipend.

Please return the SIFT application form and 2 teacher recommendations to:
Shaw Nature Reserve – SIFT
P.O. Box 38
Gray Summit, MO 63039

**Application Deadline: March 27, 2015**

Selection Notification via e-mail: April 3, 2015
Mandatory Participant Orientation: May 3, 2015, 1:00-2:00 pm

Questions may be directed to Lydia Toth via e-mail at Lydia.Toth@mobot.org.

The SIFT program is part of a collaborative partnership between Washington University in St. Louis and the Missouri Botanical Garden.

Teens who complete the SIFT program are eligible to apply to the Tyson Environmental Research Fellowships (TERF) program at Washington University's field station, the Tyson Research Center.

The SIFT and TERF programs were developed as part of an informal science education research project funded by the National Science Foundation (DRL 0739874).
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Summer 2015 and Academic Year 2015-2016

Name: ____________________________________________

E-mail: ___________________________________________

Cell phone: _______________________________________  Home phone: ________________________________

Home address (street, city, zip): ________________________________

Ethnicity: ___________________________  Date of birth: ___________________________  Gender identity: ______________

Current school and district: ____________________________________________  Current grade level (circle): 9 10 11

School attending in 2015-16: ____________________________________________  Grade level in 2015-16 (circle): 10 11 12

High school *math* courses completed by June 2015: ____________________________

High school *science* courses completed by June 2015: ____________________________

How did you hear about the SIFT program? ________________________________________

Have you participated in any other MBG Teen Network programs (ECO-ACT, SAGE, H2Os, TREES)? ______________

If so, which program and what year? ____________________________________________

**Personal Commitment**
I understand that participation in the SIFT program entails ALL of the following activities:

1. Attendance at the SIFT orientation session (May 3, 2015, 1:00-2:00 pm),
2. Completion of a 1-week summer field training program (June 22-26, 2015),
3. Attendance at two Saturday sessions during the 2015-16 school year (September 19, 2015 and March 5, 2016)
4. Attendance at the SIFT Winter Weekend (January 23-24, 2016), and
5. Participation in field project opportunities during summer 2015 and academic year 2015-16, for which I will be paid a stipend.

Signature of applicant: ____________________________________________  Date: ___________________________

**Parent/Guardian Commitment**
I understand that ________________________________ (applicant name) is applying for the SIFT program and I will support her/his participation if selected.

Signature of parent/guardian: ____________________________________________  Date: ___________________________

Parent/guardian e-mail: ____________________________________________  Parent/guardian phone: ____________________________
Please provide neatly handwritten answers or type the answers on a separate piece of paper.

Why do you want to participate in field research experiences?
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

How will participating in field research experiences benefit you? What will you do with the skills/information you gain?
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

In your opinion, what characteristics or qualities do you possess that will contribute to the success of group projects and interactions during field research experiences? Please list these characteristics and explain why they are important.
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
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_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

What are some of your educational and career interests?
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Please list any volunteer activities, group programs, youth organizations, and/or environmental programs in which you have participated, and briefly describe your experience.
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Please list any job experiences you have had (including babysitting, mowing lawns, etc.).
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Please list any extra-curricular activities (sports, band, etc.) that may interfere with your participation in the SIFT program.
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
The applicant indicated below is applying for the 2015-2016 Shaw Institute for Field Training (SIFT) program at Shaw Nature Reserve. The SIFT program is a one-week summer field training experience combined with additional training and field work activities during the following school year.

We would appreciate your honest opinion of this applicant based on your experience as her/his teacher. The more information you provide, the better we will be able to understand the applicant’s personality and abilities. Please complete this form, provide additional information about the applicant on the back or in a separate letter, seal everything in an envelope, and return it to the applicant for inclusion in her/his application package.

The application deadline is March 27, 2015.

Applicant: _____________________________________________________________

Recommendation teacher: ________________________________________________

Teacher e-mail: _______________________________________________________

Teacher school and district: ______________________________________________

Courses the applicant is currently taking or has taken with this teacher:

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

Student was eager to learn.                                           Very much   Often   Sometimes   Never

Student cared about other in class.                                   ______     ______   ______     ______

Student volunteered help to others in class.                          ______     ______   ______     ______

Student was late to class.                                           ______     ______   ______     ______

Student skipped class.                                                ______     ______   ______     ______

Student turned in homework and projects on time.                      ______     ______   ______     ______

Student participated in class and lab activities.                     ______     ______   ______     ______

Student participated in extra-curricular activities.                  ______     ______   ______     ______
   (i.e. science fair, science club, etc.)

Student was an asset to the class.                                    ______     ______   ______     ______

Would you like to teach this student in another class? (circle)       Yes, definitely   Maybe   Definitely not

On the back of this form or a separate sheet, please write 3-4 sentences on why you think we should select this student for the SIFT program. The more information you provide, the better we will be able to understand the applicant’s personality and abilities.
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The application deadline is March 27, 2015.

Applicant: __________________________________________________________

 Recommending teacher: __________________________________________________

 Teacher e-mail: ______________________________________________________

 Teacher school and district: _____________________________________________

 Courses the applicant is currently taking or has taken with this teacher:

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<th>Very much</th>
<th>Often</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>Never</th>
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<td>Definitely not</td>
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On the back of this form or a separate sheet, please write 3-4 sentences on why you think we should select this student for the SIFT program. The more information you provide, the better we will be able to understand the applicant's personality and abilities.