

HORTICULTURE INTERNSHIP

Description and Posting



Introduction

The Polly Hill Arboretum on the island of Martha's Vineyard is seeking applicants who are students of horticulture or plant science at the college level to participate as horticulture interns. The Arboretum, a Martha's Vineyard horticultural and botanical landmark, was developed by horticulturist, Polly Hill (1907-2007). In 1958, Polly began an arboretum by sowing a seed, eventually bringing 20 acres under cultivation while preserving 40 additional acres as native woodland. Established in 1998 as a not-for-profit institution, the Arboretum is devoted to horticulture, plant-based education, conservation and research, and the preservation of the character of this unique landscape. Please visit www.pollyhillarboretum.org for more information about our programs, activities and mission.

Position Summary

The Arboretum's summer horticulture internship program offers two students a unique opportunity to improve their horticultural knowledge and skills through hands-on care and management of the Arboretum's grounds and diverse living collection. Working alongside and learning from professional horticulture staff, interns participate in and are trained in a wide array of skills.

Essential Functions include:

- Learn and assist in regular horticultural tasks such as pruning, planting, weeding, mulching, mowing, watering, plant propagation, plant identification, and basic arboricultural tasks
- Learn, operate and demonstrate safe use and handling of small landscape equipment
- Work with volunteers
- Participate in additional activities such as field trips to other public gardens and nature preserves, meetings with staff members, and educational classes.
- Potential to lead tours and help out in visitor services and education.

Work Schedule and Housing

Summer horticulture internships are 12-week positions and are flexible in regards to start date, although early to mid- May is ideal. Interns work 35 hours per week, 8am – 3:30pm, and are paid an hourly wage of \$15 per hour. Occasional weekend hours for greenhouse support and/or special events may be required. Optional housing may be provided at the nearby Hoft Farm where interns from other Island conservation organizations also live in the convivial atmosphere of a restored farmhouse.

Qualifications and Success Factors

The ideal candidates will be currently enrolled in or recent graduates of a two- or four-year horticulture, botany, environmental studies or related college program. Successful candidates

will be hard-working, dependable individuals with a sincere interest in further developing their horticultural knowledge and skills in a public garden setting. Candidates must be self-motivated and able to work both independently and in a team and possess strong communication and interpersonal skills.

Work Environment

Candidates must be able to work outside in a range of weather and temperature conditions. Common tasks may require lifting up to 30 lbs, squatting, kneeling, bending, and traversing uneven terrain. Candidates are required to use general hand gardening tools, small power equipment and tools, and general office equipment.

Application Instructions

A complete internship application will include a cover letter, resume, and list of three professional references formatted into a single '.pdf' file.

The application deadline for the 2025 Summer Horticulture Internship is January 31, 2025. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Please submit inquiries and applications with the subject line "Horticulture Internship" to Grounds Manager, Ian Jochems; ian@pollyhillarboretum.org.