

Horticultural Summer Internship

Job Description

Position Summary:

American Horticultural Society (AHS), headquartered at River Farm in Alexandria, Virginia, is seeking a dedicated Horticulture Intern passionate about gardening and looking to obtain hands-on experience in the field. Reporting to the Chief Horticulturist, the Horticulture Intern will work alongside the Horticulture Staff and assist with garden management, maintenance, and design of the 27-acre historic garden property. The intern will acquire skills in native plant identification, invasive species management, and woody plant care and learn about all aspects of garden management, care of the living collections, and maintaining ecologically balanced habitats.

The intern will perform regular horticulture maintenance duties, including planting, watering, weeding, pruning, and fertilizing. These duties involve manual labor, exposure to adverse weather conditions (particularly heat and humidity), dirt, and dust. The intern will be instructed in and exercise safe working practices.

Beyond the primary focus of contributing to a beautiful garden experience for every River Farm guest, this internship will present the intern with many opportunities to broaden their experience within the horticulture field and to learn about different careers in Public Horticulture.

The horticulture internship is for individuals currently enrolled in a college curriculum focused on parks and recreation, horticulture, land conservation, biology, or related fields.

About The American Horticultural Society

Founded in 1922, AHS is a national organization with approximately 22,000 members. Our national programs include the Great American Gardeners Awards, the National Children & Youth Garden Symposium, an educational travel program, and a Reciprocal Admissions Garden program, among others. The AHS publishes *The American Gardener* magazine six times per year as a primary membership benefit. The AHS website (www.ahsgardening.org) offers resources to horticulturists, gardeners, and other constituents. AHS maintains an active presence across multiple social media platforms.

The Society is headquartered at River Farm, a 27-acre historic garden property overlooking the Potomac River in Alexandria, VA. By joining the AHS's outstanding team of professionals, you

can help share the critical role of plants, gardens, and green spaces in creating healthy, livable communities and a sustainable planet.

Responsibilities

To perform this job successfully, an individual must perform essential duties to the expected performance standards. Reasonable accommodations are made as required for persons with disabilities as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The core duties and responsibilities of the Horticulture Intern revolve around supporting our gardens. Duties can vary widely – on any given day, various tasks may be performed, such as:

- Ornamental gardening, including planting, mulching, staking, dead-heading, pruning, watering, pest identification and integrated pest management, plant identification, and developing knowledge of plant, design, and material needs
- General maintenance of gardens, horticulture buildings, and equipment, including raking, sweeping, cleaning, and repairs as needed
- Propagation/Production, including collection, storage, and sowing of seed, cuttings, transplanting, watering, additional plant care, and greenhouse management
- Plant curation, including labeling, record-keeping, mapping, plant photography, and phenology
- Detecting possible disease, nutrient deficiency, or general plant unwellness and reporting damage to the supervisor
- Identify weeds and implement control methods
- Assist in supervising volunteers
- Other departmental and/or organizational duties as needed (e.g., special events, etc.)

Qualifications

Applicants must be enrolled in a university horticulture or related program or have recently graduated from one. Selection is based on both an evaluation of the candidate's application and available positions. The candidate must have educational and/or practical experience in horticulture, botany, and/or landscape design/maintenance. They must be enthusiastic about plants, conscientious of the environment, and willing to participate in all horticulture practices.

Additional information

- This is a part-time non-exempt position.
- Horticulture Interns will work 40 hours per week from June 1, 2024, through late August.
- Typical hours: M-F 8 am - 4:00 pm

Compensation

- This is a part-time hourly position and pays \$15/hr.
- This position does NOT include any benefits (health & vision, 401k, vacation, sick time off, transportation)

To Apply

- Qualified candidates should send a resume and thoughtful cover letter that describes their experience and interest to Peter Tajat, Managing Director, Property Operations, at ptajat@ahsgardening.org. Please submit all materials in Adobe PDF or Microsoft Word only.