



EDSEL & ELEANOR FORD HOUSE

Director of Gardens and Grounds

Description

Edsel & Eleanor Ford House seeks a highly experienced, knowledgeable and enthusiastic Director of Gardens and Grounds to assume responsibility for the year-round care, preservation, and restoration of the 87 acres that comprise the estate's Jens Jensen landscape. Located along 3,000 feet of shoreline on Lake St. Clair in suburban Detroit, the estate includes a formal rose garden, perennial and annual gardens, and extensive meadow and wooded areas. This is a unique opportunity for an experienced professional to combine leadership skills and horticultural knowledge with a passion for historic landscape preservation and interpretation.

The Director of Gardens and Grounds plans, designs, and directs the presentation of the estate's gardens and grounds areas, oversees the day-to-day operations of the department (including gardens, lawns, trees, roads, walkways, irrigation systems, etc.) and manages a staff of six to eight full-time employees plus volunteers. He/she works closely with education staff to conceptualize and deliver landscape and garden interpretive programs, with development and retail staff to generate revenue opportunities, and with other historic resource directors to ensure a high standard of collection stewardship and collaboration. The Director of Gardens and Grounds participates as a member of the management team and shares responsibility for implementation of Ford House's strategic plan.

Requirements

Bachelor's degree in horticulture, floriculture, environmental science or a related field; a master's degree is preferred. A minimum of five to ten years of work experience managing the horticultural operations of a public garden, historic site or estate similar to Ford House is required. Also required are an extensive knowledge of horticulture and grounds maintenance procedures; excellent writing, speaking, and organizational skills; demonstrated ability to successfully manage and direct a staff of employees and volunteers; and proven ability to contribute to a collegial and collaborative culture.

To apply, please forward a letter of interest and resume to: Deborah Griffith, Director of Human Resources, dgriffith@fordhouse.org, 313-453-2034.

11/22/2010