

2011 Internship Opportunities at the



U. S. National Arboretum

The U.S. National Arboretum was established in 1927 by an Act of Congress. The Arboretum is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service. The mission of the Arboretum is:

To serve the public need for scientific research, education, and gardens that conserve and showcase plants to enhance the environment.

The Arboretum maintains three locations Washington D.C., Beltsville, MD, and McMinneville, TN. The main location is in Washington, D.C. which includes 446 acres of gardens, special collections, the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum, a Visitor Center, and research fields.

Internship opportunities are available in the areas of Floral and Nursery Plant Research, Horticulture Education, and Horticulture. All interns participate in regularly scheduled educational programs and field trips, work on a group or independent project that benefits the arboretum, and are supervised by the arboretum's professional staff. Compensation for the 2011 summer internships is approx. \$11.91/hr. Internships will begin at the end of May or early June and will finish in early August. The work week for most interns is Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m, 40 hours a week. Interns are based at the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. with research interns working occasionally in Beltsville, MD. College credit may be arranged by the student and is encouraged.

To apply:

To apply for an internship, please send a cover letter, resume, transcripts, and a completed Supplemental Questionnaire via email or postal mail to:

Internship Office
US National Arboretum
3501 New York Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002
USNA.Internships@ars.usda.gov

There is no deadline. However, supervisors will begin to look over applications at the start of January. Questions? Contact the internships office at (202) 245-4563 or USNA.Internships@ars.usda.gov

HORTICULTURE INTERNSHIPS

Horticulture interns work in one of the varied collections of gardens at the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. Interested applicants may indicate a specific garden of interest when applying or may apply for all positions.

Qualifications

Applicants need to have either completed course work or have acquired practical experience in horticulture or a related field. Basic gardening or laboratory skills, interest in plants, and the ability to work independently are very important.

Duties & Working Conditions

Interns will be responsible for the standard duties of working in a public garden. Examples include assisting in all aspects of garden maintenance and development, including greenhouse work, potted plant maintenance, propagation, planting, watering, weeding, mowing, and pest management. Interns will also assist with the accurate labeling of plants and answering visitors' questions. Outdoor internships may involve heavy lifting and exposure to extreme heat and humidity.

Available Positions

Azalea Collection:

The Azalea Collection is one of the older collections at the National Arboretum begun in the 1940's. It includes two formal gardens, the Frederic P. Lee Garden and the Morrison Azalea Garden and over 30 acres of cultivated azaleas numbering in the thousands. In this internship, you will assist in the maintenance of the collection, including planting, weeding, watering, pruning, and propagation.

Dogwood Collection:

The Dogwood collection features more than 100 exceptional varieties and species of *Cornus* in a naturalistic setting. In this internship, you will assist in all aspects of garden maintenance and development, including watering, weeding, planting, and fertilizing.

Conifer Collection:

The conifer collection, including the Gotelli Dwarf and Slow-Growing Conifer Collection and the Watnong Collection of Dwarf Pines, comprises approximately twenty acres of manicured gardens. In this internship, you will assist in the maintenance of the collection, including planting, weeding, watering, pruning, and propagation.

HORTICULTURE INTERNSHIPS, Continued

Native Plant Collection:

The Fern Valley Native Plant Collection features several habitats of the Eastern United States and comprises seven acres of natural woodland and meadow. In this internship, you will assist in the maintenance of the collection, including planting, weeding, watering, pruning, and propagation. Interest in North American native plants is useful.

Introduction Garden:

The plantings around the Administration Building include many cultivars that the US National Arboretum has introduced to the nursery trade. This area is also meant to serve as an area to display new plants to the public. This garden is intensely planted with annuals and tropicals, both in the ground and in containers. It also includes a water feature with a large collection of aquatic plants. In this internship, you will assist in with the installation of the annual display and with the maintenance of the area, including weeding, watering, and pruning.

Gardens Unit Propagation and Evaluation

Work is performed primarily in the greenhouse, polyhouse, and nursery areas. Plants are propagated by seed or cuttings for evaluation and are grown on for distribution to nurseries and other public gardens for further evaluation. Seeds and plants from collecting trips are also grown for incorporation in the holdings of the collections of the Arboretum. Plants growing in collections are propagated to provide duplication of holdings to improve security of germplasm.

Friendship Garden (6 month, Part-Time Internship)

Garden in an innovative landscape that includes woody plants, perennials, ornamental grasses, and bulbs designed for year-round interest. In this internship, you will assist with the maintenance of the garden, which simulates a residential setting. Actual schedule will be decided between the intern and supervisor.

FLORAL AND NURSERY PLANT RESEARCH INTERNSHIPS

The arboretum was founded as a place for researchers to develop and discover new landscape plants. The development of plants for the American public is still an integral part of the arboretum's mission and is conducted by the Floral and Nursery Plants Research Unit. Research Interns will work directly with Arboretum scientists and their ongoing research.

Qualifications

Applicants need to have either completed at least 24 hours of relevant course work or have acquired one year of practical experience in a plant production setting. Experience in horticulture and the ability to work independently are very important.

Duties & Working Conditions

In this internship, the intern will assist with the ongoing research. Intern will work directly with the USNA's research geneticists and support scientists on projects leading to the development of new woody ornamental plants. Intern will be responsible for plant production, including propagation and maintenance of plants in the greenhouse or polyhouse, as well as pollinations and other aspects of plant breeding. Work will be conducted at the National Arboretum facility in Washington, DC, as well as the ARS facility in Beltsville, MD.

Available Positions

There are two research internship positions available. One is specific to shrub breeding and the other position is specific to tree breeding. Interested applicants can apply for both positions.

HORICULTURE EDUCATION INTERNSHIP

The Horticulture Education Intern will work with the arboretum's educational program coordinator to develop ideas for free and fee-based programs for elementary-age children.

Qualifications

Applicants need to have either completed at least 24 hours of relevant course work in education, horticulture, and/or plant science. Previous work experience in horticulture education or environmental education is a plus.

Duties & Working Conditions

The intern's duties will include continuing the research of last year's summer education intern by evaluating existing National Arboretum activities, and interviewing National Arboretum curators to discover educational opportunities within the collections. Based on research and evaluations, will further develop ideas for children's programs

Available Positions

There are 2 positions available. Each position is for 3 months, but may offer the possible extension up to 6 months.

2011 SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE
FOR INTERNSHIP WITH THE U.S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM

1. Name (Last, First, Middle Initial):
2. Are you a U.S. citizen? Yes No (If not, country of citizenship?)
3. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
 Some High School High School or GED
 Some college Associate degree
 Bachelors degree Masters degree Doctorate
4. Are you currently enrolled in a degree- or certificate-seeking program at an accredited academic institution on at least a half-time basis?
 YES NO
5. Are you seeking college credit for the internship? YES NO
6. College transcripts are required. Copy is enclosed To be sent
7. Are you enrolled for classes for Fall 2011? YES* NO
If yes, please submit a class schedule for Fall 2011 or a letter from the bursar's office stating you are enrolled for Fall 2011.
8. In which Internship(s) are you interested? (Check all that apply)
- Please consider me for all internships available

Summer Horticultural Internships:

- AZALEA COLLECTION - 3 months, full-time, beginning May or June 2011
 DOGWOOD COLLECTION - 3 months, full-time, beginning May or June 2011
 CONIFER COLLECTION - 3 months, full-time, beginning May or June 2011
 NATIVE PLANTS - 3 months, full-time, beginning May or June 2011
 INTRODUCTION GARDEN - 3 months, full-time, beginning May or June 2011
 PROPOGATION AND EVALUATION - 3 months, full-time, beginning May or June 2011
 RESEARCH - 3 months, full-time, beginning May or June 2011
 CHILDREN'S EDUCATION – 3 months, full-time, beginning May or June 2011

Part-Time Horticultural Internship:

- FRIENDSHIP GARDEN – 6-8 months, part-time, beginning May or June 2010

6 Month Research Internship:

- NURSERY PRODUCTION & PLANT BREEDING – 3 months, full-time, beginning May or June 2011

9. When can you begin your internship? _____

Write on the back or use a separate sheet of paper (if necessary)

10. What particular learning experiences are you looking for in your internship (you may specify for each internship checked in # 7 above.) Upon completion of an internship, what personal goals would you like to have achieved?

11. What unique skills or horticultural experience will you bring to the internship(s) for which you have applied?

12. Name three of your strengths, professional and/or personal, that will enhance your work in this internship.

13. Please indicate your experience with the pieces of equipment listed below using the following scale:

(1) never used before (2) moderate experience (3) highly skilled

___ lawn mower

___ leaf blower

___ manual transmission vehicle

___ laboratory equipment (please give examples of equipment you have used)

___ computer (list specific applications you can work with)

14. Do you have any other experience with additional gardening equipment or machinery not listed above? If so, describe.

15. Are there any groups of plants in which you are especially interested? If so, why and what experience have you had with them?

16. How did you find out about the U.S. National Arboretum's internship program?

17. Best time and means to reach you (phone, email, day, evening):