

2017 Horticulture Internship

Governors Island Horticulture Intern Program

The Trust is seeking **2-4 Full Time Paid Horticulture Interns for the 2017 season**. Horticulture Interns will work alongside the Trust's Park and Public Space staff and will be responsible for daily horticultural care of island landscapes.

The **internship program** is designed for students whose academic calendar only allows them to work during the summer months, and will run from May/June to August for a total of 400-500 hours. If you are a recent graduate in horticulture-related studies and are available from March/April to October 2017 for a total of 1,000 hours, please consider a related Horticulture Fellowship opening.

The interns will spend approximately 60% of their time on the horticulture tasks listed below, as they serve as the primary stewards for the new landscapes. The other 40% of their time will be devoted to assisting with large corporate volunteer days, serving as subproject leads within the larger project framework. Volunteer programs are run by the Friends of Governors Island, and the interns will work collaboratively with Friends' staff to support volunteer activities. In addition to diversifying the weekly routine, participation in the volunteer days (approximately one per week) provides the opportunity to develop communication and team management skills.

Primary Horticulture Responsibilities (60%):

- Weeding
- Planting and Transplanting
- Sweeping and raking
- Mulching
- Pruning and cutback
- Irrigation inspections
- Fertilization
- Fence installation
- Compost production
- Soil sample collection and testing
- Soil amendment and restoration
- Plant propagation

Primary Volunteer Team Leader Responsibilities (40%):

- Setting up for events
- Maintaining communication with the Trust and the Friends staff
- Serving as a main point of contact for volunteers during projects
- Presenting project instructions and tool safety
- Working alongside volunteers to ensure an enjoyable experience
- Cleaning up after events

Program Qualifications and Expectations

Governors Island is committed to the development of aspiring environmental and horticultural professionals by offering real work experience that complements the foundation of studies provided by their academic institutions. Experience supervising volunteers provides an additional opportunity to develop communication and team management skills.

Candidates should be currently enrolled in or recently graduated from a degree/certificate program in Horticulture, Botany, Ecology, Landscape Architecture, Education, Public Service, or related studies.

Flexible and Adaptable Personality: The successful candidate will demonstrate the ability to thrive in a dynamic and fast-paced environment by addressing daily challenges and keeping long-term strategic goals in mind.

Self-Directed: The candidate must be able to define and solve problems independently using creative problem solving. The candidate should be proactive and take initiative identifying and completing tasks.

Leadership: Great communication skills and an ability to lead diverse corporate and non-profit volunteers with varying levels of horticultural knowledge and skills are a must.

Collaboration: Interns will be working as part of a team, including staff from the Trust, the Friends, and other on-island program partners. Therefore, the candidate is expected to be collegial and collaborative.

Stamina and Physical Health: The internship involves physical labor (lifting, bending, squatting, digging, etc.) and exposure to all weather conditions. The candidate is expected to maintain a high level of productivity in these conditions.

Background

About Governors Island

Governors Island is a very special place; the Island created by and for New Yorkers. Once off limits to the public, it is now a key element in the future of economic development and recreation for the City.

Arriving together by boat, New Yorkers coming to the Island encounter the Statue of Liberty, the Harbor, a unique Historic District, and now a spectacular, new park. More than two-dozen historic houses as well as acres of green spaces are filled with arts, cultural, and recreational experiences to discover.

In addition to making the Island a resource for New Yorkers, The Trust has also executed an ambitious capital program including major investments in infrastructure and open space. Designed by West 8 Landscape Architects, the new park has transformed forty acres of abandoned landfill into beautiful green spaces. It includes:

- Liggett Terrace, a sunny plaza with café-style seating, play fountains, a formal hedge garden, and seasonal plantings.
- Hammock Grove, a ten-acre forest planted with 1,400 trees and hammocks hung throughout.
- The Play Lawn, fourteen acres of open lawns and two turf ball fields.
- The Hills, ten acres of rolling landscapes, grassy overlooks, exhilarating slides and unforgettable views.

In the coming year, The Trust expects to begin the next chapter in the Island's redevelopment by seeking new tenants, and beginning to cement in place the Island's role as a lasting asset for the City and the region.

About The Trust for Governors Island

The Trust for Governors Island is the nonprofit corporation created by the City of New York that is responsible for the redevelopment and operation of 150 acres of Governors Island. The Trust's mission is to transform Governors Island into a vibrant resource for New York City, making this island at the center of New York Harbor a destination with extraordinary public open space, as well

as educational, not-for-profit and commercial facilities. The Trust for Governors Island does not discriminate in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy and gender identity), national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, membership in an employee organization, retaliation, parental status, military service, or other non-merit factor. For more information about Governors Island, visit www.govisland.com.

Application Information

Horticulture Internship Duration: 400-500 Hours, beginning May/June, 2017

Hours: Monday–Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., some weekend work may be required with prior notice

Compensation: Commensurate with experience.

To Apply: Please send your cover letter and resume to jobs@govisland.nyc.gov with the subject line “Horticulture Intern”.