

Horticulturist

Job Description

The Nelda C. & H.J. Lutchter Stark Foundation is seeking a professional Horticulturist for Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center in Orange, Texas. The position is full-time, hourly, with benefits. Work week is Monday through Friday, with occasional work on weekends and evenings. The Horticulturist reports to the Director of Horticulture.

As a working supervisor, this position manages the design, care, and presentation of permanent and temporary horticultural displays in assigned areas and assists grounds team with other projects in the garden, as needed. Knowledge of general horticultural principles, landscape maintenance techniques for display and educational purposes in public gardens, ornamental and regionally native plant identification is especially desired. This position requires excellent communication and teamwork skills, in addition to independent work in assigned areas.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Assess area regularly and implement maintenance tasks.
- Manage, supervise, and train staff and volunteers in assigned area.
- Oversee installation, management, and maintenance of plant displays.
- Demonstrate and train staff about proper application of best horticultural practices that include, but not limited to, fertilizing, pruning, weed control, proper moisture levels, and pest management.
- Identify volunteer needs to assist staff with projects and garden maintenance.
- Identify projects and areas in need of renovation; develop plans, obtain approval and coordinate project execution with the Director of Horticulture.
- Assist Director of Horticulture with design development for seasonal outdoor displays.
- Maintain accurate records and create weekly activity reports.
- Interact professionally with visitors, volunteers, and staff.
- Promote the garden through presentations for in-house workshops and outreach to organizations, as well as occasionally guide tours.

Education and Experience

Qualifications

An Associate's or Bachelor's degree in horticulture, botany or a closely related field is required. A minimum of three years professional work experience in the industry and a minimum one year supervisory experience is preferred.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Working knowledge of annuals, perennials and woody plants and native plants with a desire to broaden the plant diversity in assigned gardens.
- Knowledge of sustainable practices and organic materials.
- Organize and schedule work projects for staff and/or volunteers on a weekly and seasonal basis.
- Familiar with safe operation of hand and power tools.
- Excellent time management, organization, and prioritization skills.

- Written and verbal communication skills.
- Ability to work with diverse groups of individuals. Must be a team player able to work comfortably and effectively in cross-functional teams and contribute to building a positive team spirit.
- Work is performed in areas of frequent visitor interaction and requires excellent customer service while balancing need for productivity.
- Expected to perform under minimum supervision and act independently within normal duties and responsibilities.
- Valid driver's license and good driving record.
- Computer efficiency (MS Outlook, Excel, Word, and PowerPoint).

Work Environment

Ability to work outdoors in all types of weather conditions, particularly the high humidity and temperatures of Southeast Texas.

Work is most frequently performed outdoors, but may include some occasional greenhouse work.

Physical Requirements

Regularly required to use power and non-power tools, equipment, bagged and bulk materials, and agricultural products. This requires frequent standing, bending, kneeling, operating landscape equipment, reaching for objects, using a ladder, etc. May be required to move, push, pull or lift objects frequently up to 25 pounds and occasionally up to 50 pounds.

Benefits

Group medical, dental, and life insurance; retirement plan; 403(b); paid vacation, sick leave and holidays; uniforms provided

Submit a cover letter, resume, and a list of three professional references to Sarah Wester at swester@starkfoundation.org. Please put Horticulturist in the subject line.