Boerner Botanical Gardens
Summer Internship Program

Introduction
The Boerner Botanical Gardens and Arboretum are located on a rolling kettle moraine land within Milwaukee County’s 640-acre Whitnall Park. Natural landforms carved out thousands of years ago by Ice Age glaciers were enhanced by the plans of County Landscape Architect, Alfred L. Boerner, so today, native wetlands, ponds and woodlands surround 40 acres of formal gardens.

Between 1932 and 1941, Boerner’s plans were implemented during the Great Depression Era with the assistance of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the Works Project Administration (WPA), and the National Youth Administration (NYA) as well as Milwaukee County relief labor. These programs, designed to provide work for the masses unemployed, allowed for development of the Gardens and Arboretum in Whitnall Park well ahead of schedule. The Herb Garden, Bog Gardens and Trial Garden were added in the 1950’s under the direction of Al Boerner creating the present Gardens which continue to serve the community as a living museum, an outdoor classroom and a place of beauty, benefitting not only today’s citizens, but future generations as well.

The Gardens were designed as intimate garden “rooms” containing the diverse plant collections which are all professionally labelled and evaluated. Evaluation of new plant material is conducted in the Trial Garden. Since 1953, Boerner has served as one of 30 official All-America Selections Flower Trial Gardens. Boerner is also an Official Hosta display Garden and an Official Daylily Display Garden.

The Boerner Botanical Gardens and Arboretum are owned and operated by the Milwaukee County Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture.

Position Description & Responsibilities
The internship is designed to offer hands-on experience for students pursuing a career in horticulture, public gardening or landscape design. The intern will work alongside our horticulture staff, seasonal staff and volunteers. Duties will include planting, weeding, watering/irrigation, mulching, pruning, visitor interaction, plant labeling, inventory, collection records, special events, public education and admissions. The intern along with the help of staff will determine a specific project that suits both the Gardens and the Intern. At the end of the Internship the Intern will present their project to the staff. Interns will be expected to attend four public educational programs, of their choosing. Programs are offered as weekly garden walks or professional seminars held at the Gardens to broaden their scope of horticultural understanding.

Program Objectives:
Student Interns will:

- Achieve a basic understanding of horticultural techniques and knowledge in a botanical garden setting.
• Become proficient with horticultural tools and equipment.
• Learn about career opportunities in horticulture and public gardens.
• Rotate through all areas of BBG
• Learn about the resources available at the botanical gardens and the mission of BBG
• Experience teamwork, cooperation, and responsibility
• Complete a special project of their choosing that will support the mission of BBG
• Presentation of special project to horticulture staff and other interested individuals
• Participate in other educational opportunities as they arise.

Compensation

$11.32/hour at 40 hours/week for 12 weeks. Housing is not provided.

Application Requirements

• Students interested in exploring career opportunities in public horticulture.
• A strong desire to learn and succeed in the horticultural field.
• Previous garden experience and course work in Horticulture, public gardening, environmental sciences or landscape design required.
• Must be currently enrolled in a college or technical program and completed one year with a focus on horticulture, botany, landscape design, or landscape architecture.
• Applicants must be responsible, positive, self-motivated and capable of the arduous nature of gardening.
• Ability to lift 40 lbs.
• Ability to work outdoors in all types of weather conditions
• Flexible work schedule- occasional evenings and weekends
• Current Driver’s License
• Reliable transportation to and from job site
• Provide own housing

To Apply

Please send resume, cover letter and contact information for three references electronically (in PDF or Word.doc format) to Shirley Walczak, Boerner Botanical Garden Director: Shirley.walczak@milwaukeecountywi.gov

Deadline: February 19, 2021