



SHOFUSO

JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER

Garden Assistant

Overview

Located in the west section of Fairmount Park in Philadelphia, PA, Shofuso Japanese Cultural Center is a 17th century style Japanese house featuring a traditional viewing garden with a koi pond, tea garden, and courtyard garden. Originally built in Nagoya, Japan, Shofuso has been in Philadelphia since 1958 and is currently preserved and interpreted by the Japan America Society of Greater Philadelphia. Our mission is to promote intercultural understanding through Japanese art and cultural programming, and the continued preservation of the historic House and Garden.

Under the direct supervision of the Head Gardener, the Garden Assistant will contribute to maintaining the two-acre site using traditional methods, as well as upkeep the immediate surrounding park area. Work done within the walls of Shofuso will demonstrate authentic Japanese gardening principles and techniques, for which ongoing educational training will be a primary aspect of the position. This position is full-time, seasonal, and has a flexible ending date. Wages are set and paid by the City of Philadelphia. As of 2018,, this position paid \$12.00/hr.

Schedule

- Position begins on or about May 1st and continues until November 1st.
- Up to 37.5 hours per week through the working season.
- Weekend and evening hours for special events will occasionally be necessary.
- Schedule can afford some flexibility as approved by the Head Gardener.

Key Responsibilities

- Support the Head Gardener in all aspects of fostering the garden including but not limited to weeding, raking, stone setting, planting, watering, maintaining bamboo, pruning, general cleanup, pond and stream work, caring for the koi, and general maintenance tasks.
- Develop a commitment to and proficiency in Japanese gardening techniques in various capacities through hands-on instruction and personal study.
- Aid in maintaining plant and soil health through a variety of integrated pest management and fertilization strategies.
- Maintain a clean and organized working environment, especially during open hours.
- Work with and develop productive relationships with garden volunteers.
- Keep accurate and up-to-date records of work performed, blooming schedules, plant health concerns, and weather conditions.
- Staff special events (e.g. Cleanup Days, Volunteer Orientations).
- Assist in caring for and maintaining the historic Japanese house.
- Other duties as assigned.



Desired Competencies

- Nature Oriented – Exhibit a appreciation for ecology, botany, stones, and natural phenomena.
- Art, Design, & Composition - A background or active interest in the arts is highly encouraged. Japanese Gardening is concerned with aesthetic principles as much as it is horticulture, therefore the ability to study, understand, and implement design concepts is paramount.
- Craft - An general understanding of the working of natural materials (wood, stone, rope, tools, etc.), or experience in a craft-based pursuit is beneficial.
- Culture - Passionate about varying aspects of Japanese culture, past and present, as well as contemporary concepts in historical site interpretation and management.

Qualifications

- Educational background in horticulture or related field, or 1+ year(s) experience with gardening/landscaping/craft-based work*
- Ability to systematically prioritize a list of tasks and effectively manage time.
- Self-motivated and able to work independently, but also collaboratively as needed.
- Possesses excellent communication skills and is comfortable interacting with the public.
- Ability to manage volunteers.
- Must have reliable transportation to and from work*
- Pass a civil service clearance check*
- Resident of the City of Philadelphia*
- Must be able to lift 40 pounds.

Application deadline is April 1st, 2019

To apply, send resume, cover letter, and optional accompanying visual material via email to:

Sandi Polyakov, Head Gardener
apolyakov@japanphilly.org



SHOFUSO
JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER