



2022 Rotary Club of Shades Valley Internship

The Rotary Club of Shades Valley (RCSV) is funding a summer internship for the 15th consecutive year at Birmingham Botanical Gardens. A facility of the Birmingham Park and Recreation Board, Birmingham Botanical Gardens is the result of a public/private partnership between the City of Birmingham and the nonprofit Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens, a mission-driven membership organization that seeks to protect, nurture, and share the wonders of the Gardens.

The internship is an excellent opportunity for a full-time college student or recent graduate to learn skills in applied horticulture and gain experience toward a public horticulture career. While the intern will work under the guidance of several staff members of Birmingham Botanical Gardens and Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens throughout the summer, the intern will be employed by Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens and the principal supervisor will be the Friends' Director of Education and Visitor Experience.

The internship is open to a rising junior or senior attending a four-year college or university full-time or a recent graduate (within the last 12 months) of a two or four-year college. Please note that candidates must be from Alabama or must have attended college in Alabama. Preference will be given to students attending a college or university in Alabama. Students who are Alabama residents attending an out-of-state college or university and who are majoring in horticulture, landscape design, landscape architecture, biology, botany, ecology, agricultural education, plant science, environmental science, or a closely related discipline are also encouraged to apply.

Starting and ending dates for this internship are flexible based on the availability of the intern. The program duration is 10–12 consecutive weeks at 40 hours per week, typically 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Compensation is \$15 per hour for a maximum of \$7,200. The intern will participate in staff meetings, field trips, and paid holidays during the internship. The intern will attend an RCSV meeting in June or July and will be required to present a verbal summary of the internship experience via a 15-minute presentation at the August meeting. Interns are responsible for their room, board, and transportation.

Work and instruction will focus on disciplines central to public garden management and maintenance, including plant propagation, greenhouse production, planting, arboriculture, pest and weed management, and curatorial aspects of plant collections. Depending on the intern's interests, work and instruction may include plant display design, library and archives, communications and marketing, membership, fundraising, child and adult education, and visitor and volunteer programs. The intern will work in the gardens, Conservatory, greenhouses, and administrative building (Garden Center) at Birmingham Botanical Gardens. The intern may be asked to mentor a high school intern for a portion of the summer (up to 240 hours) to provide them with supervisory experience.

The intern is encouraged to attend relevant local meetings, events, lectures, and field trips with staff. The intern also may work on an ongoing project of his or her interest. The 2012 intern, for example, researched the propagation of a rare endemic Alabama fern; the 2017 intern studied the effects of invasive plants on Alabama waterways; and the 2020 intern studied the impact of beneficial bacteria

on vegetable garden production. Time will be provided each week by Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens staff to mentor the intern on a tutorial basis.

Qualified candidates should provide the following: a resume, a statement in approximately 200 words of professional objectives regarding the internship; a reference from the candidate's academic advisor (who is knowledgeable of his or her scholastic standing toward graduation); and proof of a valid driver's license (exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis; for example, for disabled but otherwise qualified applicants). **All materials must be submitted via email by 5 p.m., Friday, May 6, 2022.** The candidate must ensure the receipt of application materials by FBBG by the deadline. Candidates may be asked to interview with representatives of Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens and the RCSV.

The Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens practices a policy of equal opportunity and equal access to services for all persons regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, age, religion, disability, veteran status, orientation, or gender identity.

Please send application materials or requests for more information to:

Tyler Mason

Director of Education and Visitor Experience,

Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens

205.414.3950 x107

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