



## 2023 Rotary Club of Shades Valley Internship

The Rotary Club of Shades Valley (RCSV) is funding a summer internship in 2023 for the sixteenth consecutive year at Birmingham Botanical Gardens, a City of Birmingham facility.

The internship is an excellent opportunity for a full-time college student or recent graduates to learn skills in applied horticulture and gain experience toward a public horticulture career. The intern will be employed by Birmingham Botanical Society, Inc., dba Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens. This mission-driven membership organization, which seeks to protect, nurture, and share the wonders of the Gardens, and which has partnered with the City for over 50 years in Birmingham Botanical Gardens' operation. Even though the intern will work under the guidance of several staff members of Birmingham Botanical Gardens and Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens (collectively, "Birmingham Botanical Gardens") throughout the summer, the principal supervisor will be the 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 whom 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 they 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, marketing, membership, fundraising, public relations, child and adult education, and visitor and volunteer programs. The intern will work in the gardens at Birmingham Botanical Gardens, the Conservatory, greenhouses, and the administrative building (Garden Center). 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 fungi 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, April 14, 2023. 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 successful candidate will be selected by 5 p.m., Friday, May 5, 2023.

The Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens encourages any candidate who meets the qualifications above to apply. It is the policy of Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens to make all employment decisions, including but not limited to recruiting, hiring, training, assignment, promotion, compensation, discipline, and termination without unlawful regard for age, race, creed, color, religion, sex, orientation, disability, national origin, veteran status or exercising a protected right.

Please send application materials or requests for more information to:

Tyler Mason, Ph.D.

Director of Education and Visitor Experience,



Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens

205.414.3950 x107

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