



Volunteer Gardener Mount Vernon x2 Role Profile

What is a Volunteer Gardener Mount Vernon?

Volunteer Gardener Mount Vernon is a new role created for 2022 and will form an integral part of a small, dedicated team that looks after specifically Mount Vernon garden.

The garden is a reproduction of George Washington's upper garden as it would have appeared on his Mount Vernon estate in Virginia in 1799. Our Mount Vernon garden features ornamental planting, fruit and vegetables, and boxwood hedges in the shape of four fleur de lis which symbolize the friendship between America's first president and the Marquis de Lafayette.

Working alongside the Garden Team you will support the ongoing upkeep and enhancement of the Garden.

What's in it for you?

- Be part of the team as we enhance the Mount Vernon Garden year upon year.
- Growing, caring for and harvesting vegetables.
- Pruning apple trees and training grape vines
- Working in herbaceous borders, staking, pruning, weeding, dividing and planting.
- Learn new skills and horticultural techniques
- Meet new, like-minded people
- Have fun working in a busy, friendly and dedicated team
- Get fit and get your hands dirty and enjoy the wonderful landscape around the Museum.

This role is purely voluntary and this arrangement is not meant to be a legally binding one or an employment contract

What's involved?

- Helping with the crucial upkeep and future development of the garden and Estate:
 - Weeding, harvesting vegetables, planting, plant support, pruning, watering, dividing perennials
 - Seed sowing and propagation
 - Raking and tidying gravel pathways
 - Sweeping steps and paved areas
 - Raking leaves, picking up litter
 - Renovating old borders and mature plants
 - Pruning trees, shrubs.
 - Keeping gates clean and closing/opening when necessary
 - Ensuring tables, chairs and benches are tidy and in place
 - Working alongside the garden team on larger tasks throughout the wider garden
 - Being a friendly face for visitors to the Museum!

This role will suit people who...

...have some experience of gardening and enjoy working as part of a team. This role can be physically demanding so you'd need to be reasonably fit and willing to work out of doors in all weather conditions.

Extra information

Time commitment 1 to 2 days per week, Tuesdays and/or Fridays 9am to 4pm

Volunteer Manager Damian Mitchell (Head Gardener)
Tel 07939944993
Email Gardens@americanmuseum.org

What you need to wear/ bring Packed lunch
Outdoor clothes and stout footwear

Training/Resources Working with staff and ongoing development review

Expenses Out-of-pocket travel costs between home and volunteering place will be paid, and other reasonable expenses agreed in advance.

Website americanmuseum.org

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About the American Museum

The Museum was founded in 1961 and with its remarkable collection of folk and decorative arts it shows the diverse and complex nature of American traditions. The only museum of Americana outside the United States, it was founded to bring American history and cultures to the people of Britain and Europe.

About the Gardens

It is an exciting time to be a part of the Garden Team at the American Museum as we have invested heavily in our outdoor spaces including the New American Garden. Designed by landscape architects Oehme, Van Sweden; this cutting-edge scheme features over 12,000 plants arranged in an innovative, low maintenance, prairie-style in sweeping beds set around a fully accessible 'winding way'. We have also updated our George Washington Upper Garden which features a new layout and an authentic octagonal seed house and gives visitors a unique insight into early colonial gardening in America. We now are embarking on exciting projects to open up our wider estate including woodland walks and parkland.

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