

What is a Volunteer Ranger Gardener?

Volunteer Ranger Gardener is a new exciting volunteer role created for 2022 and will form an integral part of a dedicated team that looks after the gardens and grounds at the American Museum & Gardens. Working with the Garden Team they support the ongoing upkeep of the garden and wider estate to the highest standards and ensures everyone enjoys their visit.

What's in it for you?

- Be part of something special as we uncover new paths, maintain existing ones and generally make the estate more accessible and enjoyable for our visitors
- Meet new, like-minded people
- Have fun working in a busy, friendly and dedicated team
- Learn new skills, horticultural / countryside techniques
- Have the opportunity to be trained and become competent with specific equipment
- Get fit and get your hands dirty and enjoy the wonderful landscape around the Museum

What's involved?

- Helping with the crucial upkeep and future development of the garden and Estate:
 - Maintain pathways, cutting back laurel and overgrown areas, weeding, bonfires.
 - Helping to put up/remove/maintain fencing
 - Helping to maintain the garden and estate working alongside the skilled garden team
 - Helping with larger scale turf-care
 - Raking and tidying gravel pathways
 - Sweeping steps and paved areas
 - Raking leaves, picking up litter
 - Renovating old borders and mature plants, clearing overgrown areas
 - Pruning trees, shrubs.
 - Ensuring tables, chairs and benches are tidy and in place.
 - Keeping car parks tidy
 - Using machinery after training such as Strimmers, mowers, tractor
 - Being a friendly face for visitors to the Museum!

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

This role will suit people who...

...have some experience of gardening and countryside work 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 day per week, 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, training on machinery where applicable

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

Website americanmuseum.org

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 interesting and exciting projects to open up our wider estate including woodland walks and parkland.

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