

Volunteer Gardener Role Profile

What is a Volunteer Gardener?

Volunteer Gardeners form an integral part of a dedicated team that looks after the gardens and grounds at the American Museum & Gardens. Working in step with the Garden Team they are responsible for the ongoing upkeep of the garden to the highest standards and ensuring everyone enjoys their visit.

What's in it for you?

- Be part of something special as you help tend and nurture our New American Garden.
- Meet new, like-minded people.
- Have fun working in a busy, friendly and dedicated team.
- Learn new skills and horticultural techniques.
- 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:
 - Caring for the new planting schemes: weeding, edging, mulching, lifting and dividing, and cutting back beds to ensure they always look great.
 - Planting bulbs and ornamental plants.
 - Raking and tidying gravel pathways.
 - Sweeping steps and paved areas.
 - Looking after the nursery and cutting gardens.
 - Assisting gardeners with seed sowing and potting on.
 - Raking leaves, picking up litter.
 - Renovating old borders and mature plants, clearing overgrown areas.
 - Watering, feeding, and deadheading container plants.
 - Pruning trees, shrubs, and roses.
 - Keeping gates clean and closing/opening when necessary.
 - Ensuring tables, chairs, and benches are tidy and in place.
 - Caring for statues, labels, interpretation panels, plaques etc.
 - Keeping car parks tidy.
 - Being a friendly face for visitors to the garden and answering any questions they may have.
- Following the American Museum's Health and Safety Policy at all times.

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'll need to be reasonably fit and willing to work outdoors in all weather conditions.

Extra information

Time commitment	1 day a week, Tue-Thu, 9am to 4pm (currently 10 positions available)
Head Gardener	Damien Mitchell
Tel	07939 944773
Email	damien.mitchell@americanmuseum.org
Volunteers Manager	Helen Garrett
	01225 820868
	volunteering@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 up to a maximum of £9 per session.

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. Our New American Garden, designed by landscape architects Oehme, Van Sweden, is a cutting-edge scheme featuring 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.

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