



2023 Horticulture Internship: Avish

Waterfront Botanical Gardens

P.O. Box 5056

Louisville, KY 40206

Location: Waterfront Botanical Gardens at the Avish Estate ([5224 Avish Lane, Harrod's Creek/Prospect, KY](#))

Duration: 10- to 15-week term completed within May to September time frame

Stipend: \$15.15/hour (32-40 hours/week, Tuesday - Saturday)

Studies have shown that women and people of color are less likely to apply for jobs/internships unless they believe they can perform every job description task. We are most interested in finding the best candidate and that candidate may come from a less traditional background. WBG may consider an equivalent combination of knowledge, skills, education, and experience to meet minimum qualifications. If you are interested in applying, we encourage you to think broadly about your background and skill set for the role.

Internship Overview:

This seasonal internship at Waterfront Botanical Gardens at the Avish ("The Avish") encompasses horticultural and curatorial tasks associated with the small but dynamic 1.5-acre garden and greenhouse complex at The Avish. WBG has a use-agreement with the private property owners and WBG runs this area as a learning/teaching garden.

Horticultural tasks include plant care, installation and general maintenance of seasonal herbaceous flowers and vegetable beds and crop production and scheduling in a historic greenhouse. Perennial and shrub beds, a bonsai collection, tropical plant display specimens and water garden are also maintained here.

The Avish serves as a primary plant production facility and educational, special event and display venue, supporting WBG's mission. Aquatic plants grow in a waterfall and reflecting pool feature and nearby are over twenty elongated growing beds among a network of brick walkways. Two large square formal beds stand nearby. These areas will grow herbaceous plants from seasonal annuals and perennials to herbs and vegetable crops. A historic production greenhouse serves to support production of plants suitable for planting in the growing beds. A smaller greenhouse nearby will be a multipurpose space displaying showcase plant specimens. Extensive garden maintenance, pest monitoring and harvesting will occur during the summer in the outdoor flower and vegetable beds. Seed-starting will be staggered across the growing season, both in-ground sowing and in the greenhouse.

The ideal intern candidate will have plant-growing experience, be familiar with basic hand gardening tools (shovel, rake, hand pruners, etc.), have some level/grasp of plant identification or knowledge base, and have reliable daily transportation to/from The Avish.

The stipend is paid biweekly via direct deposit. Housing is not provided.

The horticulture intern receives hands-on training in all phases of garden development and care of the existing living collections, from trees and shrubs and herbaceous perennials to seasonal annual/vegetable crops. Specific emphasis is placed on refining practical horticultural skills. Interpersonal or basic supervisory skills may be developed by directing the activities of volunteers. Other activities include developing integrated pest management (IPM) skills, arboriculture techniques, and the potential operation and maintenance of simple garden machinery. Additional opportunities exist to assist in teaching of youth regarding plant life, botany and ecology, etc.

Field trip opportunities occur for interns, allowing them to visit other public/private garden properties to further expose themselves to additional plant materials, landscape designs and general observations in how horticulture is a viable career or rewarding lifelong hobby.

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Identify weeds and implement control methods, including applying basic integrated pest management strategies in an edible garden and ornamental landscapes.
- Promote pollinator health and diversity in the gardens.
- Assist in bed layout, scheduling, maintenance, harvest and rotation of fruit and vegetable food crops, herbaceous perennials, containerized plants/bonsai and seasonal annuals.
- Take part in watering plants, deadheading land and aquatic ornamental plants and containers on a daily schedule.
- Learn practical garden digging concepts, proper planting techniques and propagation basics.
- Gain familiarity with or operational experience with small garden maintenance machinery.
- Potential for occasional events, youth camp or adult class preparation and tear-down.

Preferred Education and Experience:

- An academic background (high school or college-age) in horticulture, plant sciences, botany or closely related field/subject study is preferred.
- Be able and willing to communicate professionally and cooperatively with WBG staff, board members, volunteers and educational programming participants.
- Be able and willing to work independently and as part of a small team.
- Be able and willing to work in all weather conditions, including intense sun rays and high ambient humidity outdoors, occasional summer rainstorms as well as in greenhouse space.
- Be able and willing to lift at least 25 lbs., occasionally up to 40 lbs.
- Interns must also adhere to a basic workplace dress policy to ensure they look professional and address their personal safety while working substantially outdoors.

Waterfront Botanical Gardens. (WBG) is committed to a policy of equal employment opportunity. The organization will not discriminate against employees or applicants for employment on any legally recognized basis including, but not limited to, veteran status, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, physical or mental disability, age, or any other protected group status as defined by law. Waterfront Botanical Gardens will also not discriminate against employees or applicants based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

To Apply:

Please submit a short cover letter/email stating your interest in this internship opportunity and a simple resume to: chicks@waterfrontgardens.org

In your email subject line, please write "Hort. internship applicant".

Deadline for submission is Monday, March 13, 2023.