An 11-Week Internship … An Experience of a Lifetime!

Our internships last 11 weeks, beginning in late May and ending in early August. This program offers practical work experience supplemented by classes and field trips. Students work 40-hour weeks, with some evening and weekend hours required for work and study. Interns have an opportunity to develop the practical skills important to potential employers. Our interns make many professional contacts through their work at Callaway Gardens. Each intern also completes a project that benefits Callaway Gardens and is usually related to the intern’s special area of interest.

Education Internship

An internship in Callaway Gardens’ Education Department is a great career builder for students interested in careers in Environmental Education or Public Horticulture. Our interns assist and conduct educational programs in home horticulture and natural history for adults and families. Topics may include insects, snakes and birds, as well as herb gardening, garden design, butterfly gardening and flower arranging. Interns also conduct children’s programs and art projects addressing natural history and gardening; respond to gardening and natural history questions in person, by telephone and through written correspondence; and assist in leading walks and bicycle tours along Gardens trails.

Horticulture Internship

The horticulture internship is an inclusive program that offers a look at many aspects of public gardens. All of our horticulture interns get hands-on experience as they rotate through a variety of areas including trails, horticulture production, fruit and vegetable production, landscape maintenance, conservatory horticulture and butterfly gardening. Over the course of the internship, interns may assist with an array of management duties including planting, watering, weeding, flora identification and inventory. As the Summer progresses, interns may have the opportunity to revisit a work area of particular interest.

Trails

The Trails Department offers practical, physical, hands-on experience in a variety of natural habitats. Interns gain experience in woodland gardening and restoration; maintaining and enhancing collections of native and cultivated azaleas, hollies and rhododendrons; and duties related to nursery operations such as propagation, potting, labeling, pruning and transplanting. Interns will learn native plants of the southeastern United States, particularly along the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Trail.

Day Butterfly Center

Butterfly gardening is an ever-increasing interest for gardeners and the public. The Day Butterfly Center is a premier live butterfly exhibit, showcasing tropical butterfly species as well as a number of other animals. Learn from the challenges of maintaining a conservatory with minimal pesticides. Work opportunities include exhibit maintenance, animal husbandry, USDA regulations, exhibit horticulture, maintaining tropical and sub-tropical plants, butterfly shipment handling and assisting with education programs.

Horticulture Production

Interns will enjoy practical, hands-on work in greenhouse production with an opportunity to assist growers in production of annuals, perennials, tropicals and a wide variety of floriculture crops. Students will assist in propagation, watering, fertilizing, weeding, transplanting, potting, staking, grooming and accurate record keeping as part of the daily routine. Career opportunities are almost endless, with former interns finding employment in retail and wholesale operations around the country.

Fruit and Vegetable Production/Landscape Maintenance

Interns experience a wide variety of horticulture activities, including pruning, tending a small greenhouse and helping design display beds. They also learn about care for vegetables, herbs, small fruits, floral borders and our home landscape demonstration garden.

Conservatory Horticulture

The John A. Sibley Horticulture Center is one of the nation’s top display conservatories and gardens. Interns learn about tropical, subtropical, succulent and sub-Mediterranean plants in a uniquely designed conservatory. Interns work with floral crops and outdoor floral borders, concentrating on basics such as watering, soil amending, fertilizing, pruning, installation and maintenance, mowing lawns and weeding. Hands-on experience with children’s elements and one-on-one interpretation, as well as working with volunteers, is also important for future display managers.
Callaway Gardens

Occupying approximately 6,000 acres in the Pine Mountain region of west-central Georgia, Callaway Gardens carries forth its founders’ desire to preserve and restore its natural areas, to protect its plants and animals, and to provide public access for education, recreation and enjoyment. With a major emphasis on native plants, Callaway Gardens offers scenic walking trails, bicycle trails and scenic drives. Areas of special interest include the John A. Sibley Horticultural Center, the Callaway Brothers Azalea Bowl, the Virginia Hand Callaway Discovery Center, the Cecil B. Day Butterfly Center, the 7¾-acre Mr. Cason’s Vegetable Garden, and collections of hollies, azaleas and rhododendrons.

The Community

Pine Mountain, Ga., is a rural community located 70 miles southwest of Atlanta. The cities of LaGrange and Columbus, both within a 30-minute drive of Callaway Gardens, offer a variety of shopping, dining and entertainment choices. Regional destinations such as museums, historic sites, natural areas and other public gardens also offer free-time diversions. Because of the rural setting, a personal car is recommended. Many students also find bicycles are effective for commuting to work, as well as an enjoyable form of recreation at Callaway Gardens.

Compensation and Benefits

Summer intern compensation includes an hourly wage of $7.86. Housing is available for a nominal cost. Interns must possess and maintain a valid driver’s license. Lunches may be purchased for a nominal cost at the Callaway Gardens Team Member Cafeteria. A limited kitchen facility is available as well.

Benefits include free admission to Callaway Gardens, access to fitness and recreational facilities on a space-available basis, and team member discounts in retail outlets on the property.

Where Are They Now?

Our interns have gone on to full-time positions in a variety of fields. Here are just a few examples:

- Cindy Sobaski, Agriculture in the Classroom Program Director, Iowa Farm Bureau
- Aaron Steil, Education and Visitor Services Coordinator, Reiman Gardens, Iowa State University
- Scott Coleman, Ecological Manager, Little St. Simons Island, Ga.
- Amanda Segura, Education Specialist, Riverbanks Zoo and Garden, Columbia, S.C.
- Stephanie Duersksen, Manager of Flower Shows, Chicago Botanic Garden
- Troy B. Marden, Garden Writer, Photographer, Designer, host of “Volunteer Gardener” on Nashville Public Television
- Carleton B. Wood, Executive Director, Hills and Dales Estate, LaGrange, Ga.

The Word from Former Interns

"Callaway Gardens’ internship program is an excellent experience for those wishing to learn different horticultural styles and ideas."

– Michele Burton, University of Arkansas

"The field trips were very valuable in broadening our knowledge and experience."

– Robin Isley, North Carolina State University

"The program teaches a broad spectrum of topics that not only help your studies, but make you a more well-rounded individual."

– Sam Phillips, Auburn University

"It gives the horticultural student a real-life experience in learning just how much work it takes to maintain a well-groomed landscape and garden."

– Sandi Buchanan, South Georgia Technical College

How To Apply

Students wishing to apply for a position in the Callaway Gardens Internship Program should send 1) a resume; 2) a cover letter describing career goals, professional interests and reasons for seeking an internship position; and 3) three letters of recommendation to:

Intern Registrar
Education Department
Callaway Gardens
P.O. Box 2000
Pine Mountain, GA 31822-2000
e-mail: education@callawaygardens.com
706.663.5153 • Fax 706.663.6720

Students may download an application at callawaygardens.com/interns. All materials must be submitted by February 15, 2013. Successful applicants will be notified around mid-April.

OUR LEGACY

Callaway Gardens, a man-made landscape in a unique natural setting, was conceived and created by Cason J. Callaway and his wife, Virginia Hand Callaway, for the benefit of mankind. The purpose is to provide a wholesome family environment where all may beauty, relaxation, inspiration and a better understanding of the living world.

Callaway Gardens has two concentrated Internship Programs, each lasting 11 weeks. One is in our Horticulture Department; the other is in the Education Department. These internships are invaluable for careers in Public Horticulture, Landscape Design or Environmental Education.

Connecting man and nature in a way that benefits both.