

Beekeeper Intern

Reports to: COO/CFO

FLSA: Hourly, non-exempt

Summary: This internship prepares students to enter the field of environmental science or science education by providing hands-on experience with informal education in a public garden setting as well as the experience of learning to raise honey bees and provide the environment to help them flourish. This internship allows students to learn how the Gardens leverages the incredible landscape and resources of the gardens for a wide variety of learning modes and settings to serve our diverse customer and visitor base. Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens is regarded as among the foremost public gardens in the country.

Essential Functions: *(This job requires the performance of the following tasks, with or without accommodation. Incumbents may be regularly or occasionally required to assume additional responsibilities or perform additional tasks.)*

Under the supervision and mentorship of an EAS Certified Master Beekeeper (and CFO/COO of the Gardens) and working closely with the Horticulture department, the Beekeeper Intern will play a major role in expanding the Gardens' beekeeping operations. Responsibilities will include management of 10-20 honey bee colonies, educational programming for CMBG summer campers, outreach to CMBG visitors and members, and research into pollinator behavior. A goal of the position is to incorporate beekeeping operations into the visitor experience.

Beekeeping

- Assist in management of CMBG based honey bee colonies including swarm management, queen rearing, seasonal management, and honey harvest.
- Assist in the maintenance of colonies at off-site properties as outreach in the CMBG community as assigned.
- Learn the art and science of live interpretation
- Interact formally and informally with guests to increase their interest in and knowledge of pollinators and their contributions to their environment.
- Conduct basic research on pollinators in the Gardens.

Horticulture

- Ornamental gardening, including planting, mulching, weeding, staking, dead-heading, pruning, watering, pest identification and integrated pest management, plant identification, and developing knowledge of plant, design, and material needs
- General maintenance of gardens, horticulture buildings, and equipment, including raking, sweeping, cleaning, sharpening, and repairs as needed
- Plant curation, may include labeling, record-keeping, mapping, plant photography, and phenology

Qualifications:

- Highly motivated and self-directed
- Comfortable interacting with the public
- Solid interest in insects, plants, nature and their interaction, and a desire to learn more
- Background in entomology, botany, horticulture or other natural sciences is desirable but not required

Work schedule: This is a paid internship, 40 hours/week, may include some weekends. Flexible start and end date (approximately mid-April to late August). Assistance finding housing is available.

Physical and environmental factors:

This is an active job requiring walking, standing, kneeling, squatting, bending and reaching, up to eight hours at a time. Work is performed primarily outdoors and the incumbent will be exposed to inclement weather (hot, cold, wet). Requires the ability to communicate verbally in English.

This is not necessarily an exhaustive list of responsibilities, skills, duties, requirements, efforts, or working conditions associated with the job. While this job description is intended to be an accurate reflection of the current job, the company reserves the right to revise the functions and duties of the job or to require that additional or different tasks be performed when circumstances dictate (such as emergencies, changes in personnel, work load, rush jobs, or technological developments).