



Role Description – Garden Volunteer

Overview

The gardens at Grimsthorpe date at least to the early 1500s and today comprise of kitchen garden, walled garden, topiary square, herbaceous borders and more. Our gardeners work incredibly hard to keep the gardens looking their best for visitors, and could always do with a helping hand! Volunteer gardeners will have a fantastic opportunity to plant, weed, and water in the beautiful grounds at Grimsthorpe, as well as interacting with visitors.

What will I be doing?

As a volunteer gardener, you will be expected to:

- Assist the gardens team with the seasonal tasks that are being carried out throughout the year such as dead heading, weeding, watering and planting
- Provide a warm and friendly welcome to all visitors to the gardens
- Chat with visitors about your role and the gardens in general
- Attempt to answer any questions visitors may have
- Use radios to communicate with other staff and volunteers
- Maintain a level of visitor supervision in the gardens

Covid-19 considerations

- Remind visitors to keep to the current government guidelines in controlling Covid-19, e.g. wearing masks

How much time will I be expected to give to this role?

Volunteer days in the gardens will be one day a week between Monday and Friday on a set day between the hours of 9.30am and 3.30pm.

We are flexible and would like volunteers to join us for as many days within a month as they would like.

All we ask is that you keep us informed as to when you would like to join us and if you can't make a day that you have planned for to let us know in advance.

What skills, qualities and training do I need?

We are looking for people who have an interest in gardening within an historic setting such as Grimsthorpe. Any gardening skills you have are a bonus as we will provide training for any work that you help us with.

What support and training is offered for this role?

You will have a designated supervisor for your role who will support you during your time in the gardens. They will check in with you regularly and you will have a progress sheet to help you and your supervisor track your volunteering journey. You will also have informal one-to-one meetings with the Visitor Experience Lead to see how you are getting on, and a chance to provide feedback and make suggestions.

We will ask you on application if you have any support needs and will discuss this with you before you start so that we can make sure your volunteering experience with us is a positive and rewarding one. Please see our FAQs for more information on support.

You will be working as part of a team with a member of staff and we will never ask you to do anything that you feel you are not ready to take on.

You will receive training in:

- Health and safety
- Fire evacuation procedure
- Using the radios
- Covid-19 procedure
- Role-specific training with relevant staff

What are the benefits of volunteering for this particular role?

Being a gardens volunteer can help you in several ways such as learning new skills, team working, and improving your health both physically and mentally. You will pick up some fascinating local history, as well as how traditional country estates work.

You will soon make friends with other staff members and volunteers and connect with the local community by talking to visitors both regular and from further afield. Ultimately, the heritage world relies on the passion and dedication of special people who understand its importance to ensure its longevity for future generations – giving something back will hopefully cultivate a sense of belonging, personal achievement, and satisfaction.

For more information about how volunteering can benefit you, please see our FAQs.