Tree Guardian Volunteer

Role description

**Main purpose**

The Horniman Museum and Gardens features a beautiful 16.5-acre site of award-winning maintained formal and natural landscapes. These include a sunken garden and another featuring spectacular grasses. Herbaceous borders, ornamental shrubs, ethno-botanical planting and wildflower displays combine to provide year-round variety. The woodland nature trail that runs the length of the gardens is one of the oldest in London.

In this ongoing role, a small group of volunteers will support the Gardens team in the care and maintenance of the gardens with a particular focus on the trees and the Nature Trail. Following some training and a weekly briefing, the group will manage their tasks independently.

**Tasks will mainly be:**

* Checking the condition of trees and reporting anything of concern
* Maintaining tree circles (the ground at the base of the tree) and watering newly planted trees
* General border maintenance
* Clearing brambles from the Nature Trail and other areas of the garden
* Using log piles and prunings to make habitats for invertebrates, hedgehogs and other wildlife on the Nature Trail and in other garden areas
* Occasional planting and weeding
* Driving a utility vehicle (after training) if happy to do so (this is not a requirement)

**Commitment**

This is volunteer opportunity that takes place weekly on a Friday morning from 10am to 1:00pm. We ask that volunteers bring their own gloves and, ideally, wear steel toe-capped boots for health & safety reasons. If this is an issue, we may be able to provide these or reimburse these on production of receipts. It is also desirable that you have an up-to-date tetanus vaccination.

**This role would suit someone who:**

* Has an interest in trees, can identify common ones and is interested in learning about their ongoing care
* Is interested in supporting wildlife through maintenance of natural habitats
* Can recognise common weeds
* Is physically able to bend, stretch and lift for the duration of the 3 hour session
* Will follow Health and Safety instructions

**We offer participants:**

* A supportive, learning environment and the opportunity to gain deeper understanding of tree maintenance, assessing tree health as well as other cyclical tasks in the garden
* Reimbursement of travel expenses within Greater London
* Special events for volunteers inc. behind-the-scenes talks and socials
* A 20% discount at the café and the shop
* Free entry to paid areas of the museum
* Free reciprocal entry to National Museum Directors’ Council members’ sites, after 4 months volunteering

**To apply**: Please complete the application form online or email volunteering@horniman.ac.uk for an application form in Word form.

**Deadline: Sunday 20th October 2024**

**If shortlisted, you will be invited to a trial shift on Friday 25th October. Please keep the day free**

Approved by Volunteering Manager October 2024