

VOLUNTEER ROLES

Department or team: Horticulture Role: session support or garden maintenance and development
About the department
<p>Horticulture as a department is run by a small employed team which focuses mainly on the sessions on offer and project management, and depends heavily on volunteers. It has a fluctuating seasonal need for gardening volunteers, and a year-round need for volunteer support in sessions, of which there are 6 a week. We do a harvest for the Bistro 3 times a week which is usually done by volunteers and guests. We have a large and very friendly, fun-loving volunteer team every Friday which focuses on the maintenance, development and harvesting, but from early summer we also need daily help with watering etc.</p> <p>We are looking particularly for volunteers who can supervise others.</p>
What the role involves and regular duties
<p>Role 1) Supporting guests to access horticultural activities in sessions. This involves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• supervising small groups under guidance from the facilitator,• preparing teaching spaces and clear-down of sessions at their conclusion.• may also include taking photos for data capture. <p>Role 2) For new volunteers this would be from March to the end of October only. Undertaking gardening jobs around the horticulture area, either independently or as part of a team. Jobs range from light duties to physically demanding!</p> <p>Regular duties include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• watering,• harvesting,• packaging,• weeding,• tidying and cleaning,• clearing land & soil prep,• dead-heading (summer only),• sowing and seedling care,• planting,• DIY and construction.

Required ability, skills for the role

Role 1)

- Familiarity with basic gardening techniques (eg sowing, planting, weeding);
- ability to relate positively and appropriately with adults with a range of disabilities
- strong communication skills;
- supervisory skills;
- ability to work in a team;
- good time-keeping and reliability
- sense of humour!
- May require a DBS check.

Role 2)

- Ability to handle a range of garden tools as appropriate to each volunteer
- Ability to work in a team according to the needs of the garden

Desirable and useful characteristics and experience to further enhance the role

For Role 2:

- Good grasp of basic gardening techniques – experience very welcome!
- Able to work independently
- Willingness to work in variable weather conditions (though not severe!)
- Sense of humour and enthusiasm
- **Ability/willingness to lead less experienced volunteers, and/or buddy up with volunteers with mild support needs**
- Specific experience of growing produce and/or propagation
- Specific interest in organic or biodynamic and permaculture approaches
- Research skills
- Sales and marketing skills
- Experience in social enterprise