



## **To Apply**

Students interested in the internship must submit the following to Julie Copley, [jcopley@powellgardens.org](mailto:jcopley@powellgardens.org)

- Cover Letter addressing the following:
  - Why are you interested in the internship and what do you expect to gain from the experience?
  - What are your career goals?
  - What four areas of conservation are you currently most interested in?
- If you are seeking credit, how many hours do you need? Attach a course description to the application.
- Resume
- Three references: professional, academic, and/or personal

To view all our open positions, please go to <https://powellgardens.org/about/careers/>

## **About Us**

As Kansas City's Botanical Garden, Powell Gardens plays a vital role in the community as a space for release, rejuvenation, and the celebration of the fleeting nature of nature itself. Visitors enjoy themed display gardens, a three-mile nature trail, seasonal festivals, rotating exhibitions, and exceptional architecture. Established in 1988, Powell Gardens is a public garden, maintaining 970 acres of lush, rolling hills and windswept meadows, with more than 175 acres and a large collection of plants open to the public for education, exploration, and recreation.

We at Powell believe that our team members are our most important asset. By building strong relationships with each other, we can ensure that our guests have the best possible experience. If you love to work outdoors and want to leave your mark in the gardening world, Powell Gardens is the place for you! Come experience our beautiful gardens and join our team of experts.

## **Position Summary**

The Conservation Intern will have the opportunity to assist with stewardship of natural communities, mostly prairies, owned by Powell Gardens. Additionally, the intern will gain experiences in environmental education outreach and volunteer management. Powell Gardens strives for excellence with conservation stewardship and horticultural display and the impact on visitor experience, emphasizing the quality of collections, materials, function, and design. By maintaining exemplary standards of horticultural care, we reflect this commitment to excellence, ensure the optimal health of our living collections, and create a landscape of enduring beauty giving a positive impact on visitor experience

## **Essential Functions**

- Restoration and Management Tasks at Ona's Prairie and Powell Gardens
  - Floristic inventories

- Seed harvest
- Woody encroachment management
- Documentation of management
- Data input
- Collection Care and Display
  - Meadow trails and paths
  - Native plant display gardens
  - Mead's milkweed conservation plot
  - Byron Shutz Nature Trail System maintenance
- Invasive Species Management
  - Learn to identify invasive plant species and proper removal techniques

### Other Duties

- Outreach
  - Partake in organized prairie tours
  - Learn strategies to lead brief prairie walks
  - Represent Powell Gardens and Ona's Prairie in the conservation community
- Volunteers
  - Provide direction and support for Conservation Crew at Powell Gardens and Ona's Prairie.
  - Ensure volunteers are utilizing best practices.
  - Engage and assist citizen science volunteers

### Experience/Education

- Students enrolled in an AAS, Bachelor's or Master's program in relevant field such as horticulture, botany, ecology, environmental science, wildlife biology, restoration ecology, entomology, landscape maintenance, agriculture, etc.
- High School Diploma or GED Required
- Valid Drivers License *Required*

### Knowledge

- Passion for horticulture, nature, native plants
- Willingness to work hard and take constructive criticism to grow as a professional
- Basic working knowledge of office technology products including Excel and Word.
- Attention to detail
- Good communication skills
- Understanding of role in a team

### Time Commitment

Those seeking college credit and or paid for the internship, must complete the required number of contact hours required by their respective institution. The standard number of hours for an intern at Powell Gardens in

this role is 40 hours/week for 12-14 weeks. Interns will start the internship between mid-May/early June and end mid-August.

### **Physical Requirements/Work Environment**

Must be able to lift 40lbs; Capable of kneeling, standing and bending for extended periods of time on an ongoing basis in various conditions, including extreme heat and rain; ability to work evenings, holidays and weekends as required. Start date is negotiable. Ability to work in rural setting with access to minimal facilities. Must have a valid driver's license and mode of transportation.

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