

Internships at Chanticleer

Chanticleer is a plant-driven, highly aesthetic public garden with an unofficial motto of “Beauty Without Bureaucracy.” Even though it has adequate financial resources, Chanticleer is a small, lean organization and a model for gardens with limited resources. High standards are emphasized throughout the organization.

An internship is a two-way relationship. The intern will study the Chanticleer model of garden leadership, one that

- gives Horticulturists major leadership roles in design,
- emphasizes direct interaction between top management and garden staff,
- is a “pleasure garden” and treats each visitor as a personal guest,
- is educational but does not clutter the landscape with signs.

The intern in return will offer Chanticleer a passion for learning about the garden, gardening, plants, and leadership. The intern will respect the intellect and knowledge of all staff members and recognize the best way to learn from them is to ask thoughtful questions while offering her/his enthusiastic labor.

A key part of the internship is practical work experience in the garden. With hands in the soil, the intern can discuss the garden’s philosophy with staff and relate those experiences to discussions with the top managers.

Chanticleer’s seven Horticulturists and the Grounds Manager are key leaders in the organization, have collections and educational responsibilities, and a public relations role. The Executive Director handles overall design, education, public relations, finance, and operations.

Internships are offered between March and November for a minimum of three months and a maximum of ten. The internship starts with an introductory tour of the garden. During the time at Chanticleer, the intern will work with several Horticulturists and will

- learn the area overseen by the Horticulturist,
- learn and discuss plants, plant care, design, and garden management,
- observe interaction of the staff with garden guests and with top managers,
- have an opportunity to interact with Grounds Manager and Executive Director,

The Grounds Manager or a Horticulturist serves as the Intern’s contact person and daily supervisor.

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