



FRIENDS OF ACADIA

## **Wild Gardens of Acadia Supervisory Gardener Job Description and Application Instructions 2017**

**Overview:** The Wild Gardens of Acadia is a ¾-acre botanical garden featuring the native flora of Acadia National Park. Located at Sieur de Mont Spring, one of Acadia's more heavily visited areas, the Gardens receive traffic from late April through mid-November with peak traffic from July through September. The Gardens are managed by a dedicated committee of volunteers with administrative and fundraising support by Friends of Acadia (FOA) and additional support from Acadia National Park. The Supervisory Gardener is an FOA employee, working with the Wild Gardens Committee.

### **Duties:**

The Supervisory Gardener is responsible for:

1. Maintaining the Wild Gardens in cooperation with the Wild Gardens Committee. This may include, but is not limited to, pruning, weeding, fertilizing, composting, pest control, minor arbor work, minor soft- and hard-scaping, propagation, plant labeling, and minor carpentry.
2. Planning and executing improvements to Wild Gardens habitats in conjunction with the Wild Gardens Committee and helping to locate and acquire necessary plant and landscaping materials.
3. Keeping garden records and maintaining a log of MSDS sheets in cooperation with Acadia National Park.
4. Supervising, instructing, and evaluating a full-time student intern(s) from early June through early September.
5. Communicating with the Wild Gardens Committee, organizing volunteer work parties on a regular basis, and taking an active role in all Wild Gardens-related events and tours.
6. Communicating with the appropriate parties at Acadia National Park in matters relating to the direct operation of the Garden (e.g. water lines, hazard trees, path maintenance, etc.).
7. Developing and/or providing educational materials, including leaflets and bulletin board materials, for the public.
8. Communicating with the public—answering visitors' questions with patience and politeness as a representative of Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park, interpreting the gardens, and respectfully redirecting inappropriate visitor behaviors.
9. Developing programs in conjunction with the Wild Gardens volunteers for special events, volunteer training, and/or daily activities.

**Qualifications:** This position requires significant gardening experience with the following: planting and general maintenance of herbaceous and woody plant material, pruning of trees and flowering shrubs, organic methods of pest and disease control, organic soil improvement and fertilizing methods, winterizing, and botanical nomenclature. Successful candidates will have a basic knowledge of botanical terms, of the concepts of plant communities and of plant identification using a dichotomous key. Ideal candidates will have additional experience with the cultivation and propagation of native plants, will have previously worked in a public garden, will have knowledge of horticultural design, will keep abreast of the impacts of climate change on native flora, and will have proven supervisory skills. Applicants must

also have excellent communication skills and have demonstrated the ability to work independently and take initiative. Candidates must be able to work hard at a physically and socially demanding job, which may involve lifting 50 pounds, bending, kneeling, raking, working in inclement weather (hot, cold, or wet), and attending to routine tasks. Reasonable accommodation will be made.

**Requirements:** Applicant must have appropriate personal footwear (closed-toe hiking shoes or boots) and raingear. Applicant will be provided with Wild Gardens uniform shirts, hat, and fleece jacket. Applicant must wear tidy, non-ripped pants while working in the Gardens. If applicant is asked to run errands for the Wild Gardens, he/she must have a valid driver's license and use his/her own automobile. Applicant will be reimbursed for mileage beyond his/her daily commute to the Wild Gardens.

**Period of Service:** Mid-April to late-October with pre- and post-season planning (total hours not to exceed 760 over the year). **Hours and Days off:** to be arranged with Wild Gardens Executive Committee and Friends of Acadia, but generally, the gardens should be covered by staff or volunteers during peak hours 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. July to mid-October. Supervisory Gardener will work no more than 80 hours total in any pay period. **Wages:** \$16.00-\$20.00/hr. depending on experience. **Pay period:** Every two weeks. **Housing:** Applicants will be expected to find their own housing on or near Mount Desert Island. **Work Environment:** Most of the work is performed outdoors and may involve moderate risks or significant discomfort.

**Uniforms/Equipment:** Wild Gardens of Acadia shirts, fleece, hat, and nametag will be provided.

**To Apply:** Email cover letter, resume, and three references to Stephanie Clement at [stephanie@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:stephanie@friendsofacadia.org).

**Application deadline:** March 19, 2017 or until filled

Call Friends of Acadia at (207) 288-3340 or 1-800-625-0321 with questions. Friends of Acadia is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**Friends of Acadia** is an independent nonprofit organization, founded in 1986. Its mission is to preserve, protect, and promote stewardship of the outstanding natural beauty, ecological vitality and distinctive cultural resources of Acadia National Park and the surrounding communities for the inspiration and enjoyment of current and future generations. Since 1986, FOA has granted \$25.6 million for park and community conservation. The organization has almost 5,000 members and makes possible the employment of more than 150 workers directly serving Acadia National Park.