

VISITORS CENTER ASSOCIATE

P/T SEASONAL (Dominion Energy GardenFest of Lights)



Direct Supervisor:	Visitors Center Manager		
Department:	Guest Services	Job Category:	NE
Location:	Richmond, VA	Travel Required:	N
Level/Salary Range:		Exempt/Non-exempt:	
Contact:	Robin Gregson robing@lewisginter.org	Position Type:	PT Seasonal (fall/winter) Estimated 10-15 hours/week with opportunities for more based on events Weekend hours required
Date Posted:	October 8, 2020	Posting Expires:	Until Filled

Garden Overview

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden was founded in 1984 as a community oriented, non-profit garden. After 33 years, the Garden now encompasses 82 acres, four lakes, 5,500 unique taxa of plants within 15 distinct outdoor gardens, 11 major buildings including a conservatory and greenhouse, plus an 80-acre branch site, the Lewis Ginter Nature Reserve. In 2017 we welcomed, taught, energized, and engaged over 400,000 guests with stunning botanical displays, inspiring exhibitions, entertaining activities, and over 800 formal and informal education offerings. We embarked on new and promising community engagement initiatives through the Beautiful RVA movement. We updated the strategic plan and continued priority project planning within the scope of the 2016 master site plan. Our 100 full- and part-time staff joined with 650 volunteers and 13,000 member households to live into the Garden's mission to connect people through plants to improve communities.

We do this through a broad variety of mission related activities and enterprise business services. We try to pattern ourselves on extraordinary programs and institutions nationwide, and where there are no examples, we intend to lead. We aspire to be a Garden that is representative in every way of the diverse community we serve.

Job Description

- Handles payment in exchange for admission fees and membership dues, classes and Dominion Energy GardenFest of Lights tickets
- Responsible for all cash and credit card transactions; following established procedures for opening and closing assigned register

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BOTANICAL
GARDEN**

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- Able to efficiently use TAM database to perform ticket sales, register guests for classes, run reports, check daily schedule of events, look up events for guests needing information (date and location confirmation, etc.)
- Able to use Outlook and Microsoft office products to check Admissions emails, respond via email to Garden staff on admissions related matters if needed and check shared calendar for staffing schedule updates
- Able to efficiently and accurately use Raisers Edge database to look up memberships and issue temporary membership cards, sell new memberships and renew existing or lapsed memberships
- Able to recruit membership sales, appropriately recommend upgrades and provide special membership services
- Assists with handling membership mailings, promotions and specials
- Participates in strategies that grow the membership base and retain current members
- Keeps working area organized, is ready to conduct business and keeps area tidy for following day's shift
- Provides departmental support as requested and needed to handle exceptionally busy processing seasons
- Makes use of slow periods by performing administrative duties like assembling member packets, restocking Garden materials and seasonal rack cards, etc.
- Ensures areas of visitor entry in Visitors Center are ready for the day's business to include turning monitors on, ensuring all signage is accurate, checking for accurate signage on exteriors doors as verified by ActiveNet schedule of events each day
- Able to create and print new signage if needed to alert guests of time sensitive issues like closings, limited access to certain areas of the Garden, safety alerts, special event information, etc.

Responsibilities

- Provides excellent customer service to guests, visitors, members, volunteers, event and program attendees coming through the Visitors Center
- Acts as the "face of the Garden" by genuinely welcoming each visitor with knowledge of the Garden, helpfulness, empathy and eagerness to be of service
- Stays informed of all Garden events, classes and activities and is able to provide information to visitors regarding special events, Gift Shop hours, Café and Tea House hours and menus, by efficiently and quickly being able to use all available electronic and printed means including ActiveNet, the Garden's website, etc.
- Is proactive in assessing visitor's needs quickly, ie: offering assistance or directions, locating wheelchairs or strollers, offering help if visitor appears in need of help
- Answers the Garden's general delivery phone line and responds, expedites calls to appropriate departments or staff members, as well as returns calls appropriately and in a timely fashion
- Efficiently and correctly handles deliveries made to the front desk
- Is able to handle difficult situations with tact and respect and reports issues to supervisor in a timely manner and with accurate details
- Is readily able to identify a situation that requires the attention of a supervisor or Director
- Acts as a contact person in case of emergencies and reports situation to appropriate parties, using required reporting procedures, as well as contacting 911 for assistance when needed
- Presents oneself with a professional and friendly attitude and appearance
- Other duties as assigned by supervisor

Each employee of Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

- Must comply with provisions of the current Employee Handbook, all published personnel policies and the requirements of their individual job descriptions
- Must conduct herself or himself and perform all duties in a manner consistent with a public garden serving multigenerational and multicultural individuals and families, and in accordance with directed practices and procedures
- Must be aware of surroundings and vigilant to threats to the safety of visitors, volunteers, and staff or to security of their property, ensuring that all concerns are reported promptly
- Must report all mishaps, injuries, and incidents immediately and ultimately in writing to supervisor(s) and to the Executive Director
- Must ensure compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations
- Must perform other duties as assigned by supervisor

Required Skills

- Willing and able to work weekends and evenings during Dominion Energy GardenFest of Lights
- Prior cashier; money handling experience
- Prior experience working with the public
- Experience using Microsoft Windows
- Knowledge of TAM or similar front desk admissions/ticketing software
- Knowledge of Raisers Edge database or similar software
- Familiar with Nortel or some other mainstream telephone platforms
- Efficient and accurate data base entry skills
- Detail oriented and is able to multi-task in a fast-paced potentially noisy environment
- Proven ability to problem solve during real-time events
- Ability to work in a supervised and an unsupervised environment
- Works well with others and alone
- Able to work independently while providing full service of admissions and membership needs
- Takes direction from supervisor in a positive and constructive manner
- Is proactive and provides suggestions and ideas on streamlining procedures

Physical Demands / Working Conditions

- Must be able to work for extended periods in one location, then move periodically and quickly between select points within the Robins Visitors Center adjacent to the Atrium as well as the immediate outside locations
- Must be able to lift 20 pounds
- Periodically, must be able to move around the Garden to understand and so better explain it to guests

Note: Duties described above, other duties and physical demands have been identified as essential.

Education and Experience

- High School Graduate or equivalent
- Associates Degree preferred but not required