

Benefits of Being a Bonsai Garden Guardian:

Hone your landscape knowledge and skills

Learn about the challenging but fascinating world of bonsai care and management.

Work with other dedicated people committed to preserving this fascinating art and providing a wonderful experience for the many visitors to the bonsai garden, made more beautiful by your efforts.

Job Description: Bonsai Landscape Tenders

Maintain the health and aesthetic quality of the landscaping in the bonsai exhibit area and reserve area by performing tasks such as: weeding, raking, cobweb removal.

Carefully inspect the display and reserve areas and report any concerns to the Curator or Volunteer Coordinator.

Job Description: Bonsai Tree Tenders

Maintain the health and high aesthetic quality of the bonsai by performing tasks that will include bonsai weeding, grooming, pot cleaning, and inspection of bonsai irrigation systems for proper function.

Inspect the bonsai in both the display and reserve areas and report any concerns to the Curator or Volunteer Coordinator.



Garden Guardian (continued)

Skills:

May have prior experience with landscape work or bonsai, but no experience is required.

Need to be healthy enough to perform physical jobs in a range of weather conditions,

Be observant and responsible for regular attendance and reporting any concerns or questions.

Training:

Work under the close supervision of the Curatorial team or Volunteer Coordinator until they have demonstrated that they have acquired the skills and confidence to work independently.

Observe the work of the Curator and the Curatorial team to acquire higher level skills and knowledge. Bonsai Tree Tenders may progress to become curatorial team members, performing higher level bonsai care under the supervision of the curator.

Commitment:

Work at least one -two shifts per month, when the Curatorial Team is present: weekdays twice a week for at least four hours a day year round and/or one weekend day per month.

Works additional time for special projects, such as the opening of an exhibition or for the Kōen-Nai, the CBCS's annual fundraiser.

May choose to receive the necessary training on designated Saturdays to work independently and then perform basic maintenance on weekends of their choosing.

Anyone interested in progressing to a higher level of work with the bonsai, will need to put in much more than the minimum time.



BECOME A CLARK BONSAI VOLUNTEER!

If you have visited the Clark Bonsai Collection at Shinzen Japanese Garden in Woodward Park, you were probably impressed by its beautiful serene ambiance and the impressive, carefully crafted bonsai. But what you may not have considered is that all of this was created and is maintained by a cadre of dedicated volunteers who tend to the landscaping and structures of the bonsai garden and the health and beauty of the bonsai. You may have also interacted with a friendly knowledgeable docent who welcomed you and answered your questions about the bonsai and the garden. Whether you enjoy working with your hands or learning more about Japanese art and culture, especially the art of bonsai and enjoy sharing what you learned with others, you might enjoy becoming a volunteer. We are in serious need of volunteers to keep the garden open to the increasing numbers of visitors. Please consider becoming a member of the Clark Bonsai collection Volunteer Family!

Visit www.gsbflarkbonsaicollecion.org

Benefits of being a Bonsai Host or Docent:

Learn about the art of bonsai and aspects of Japanese aesthetics and culture.

Have the pleasure of communicating with a wide variety of people.

Enjoy the satisfaction of sustaining the bonsai garden and enhancing the experience of our visitors.

Title: Bonsai Host (an entry level position)

Job Description: A host will

receive orientation to the job of greeting and monitoring visitors to the bonsai garden

provide security for the collection and answer basic questions.

Skills: The volunteer

has an interest in learning about the art of bonsai

enjoys interacting with the people who visit the bonsai garden.

Training:

Requires a one hour orientation to the hosting duties and shadowing an experienced docent until the volunteer feels prepared to “go solo.”

Commitment:

Based on their availability, Hosts sign up for three hour shifts a minimum of once or twice a month, primarily on weekends.

Title: Bonsai Docent

Job Description: A docent will

Perform bonsai hosting duties, greeting and monitoring visitors to the bonsai garden, providing security for the collection.

Provide guided tours of the collection and answer a full range of questions about bonsai, the exhibition on display and the collection.

Share their enthusiasm about bonsai and what they have learned with others, increasing visitor interest and enjoyment of the bonsai garden.

If they choose, complete Shinzen Garden docent training and participate in providing scheduled full garden group tours

Skills: Be an effective learner and communicator.

Training:

Receive the one hour orientation to the hosting duties and shadow experienced docents to build knowledge and confidence.

Attend a one hour introduction to bonsai, its history, artistry, techniques, styles and horticulture.

Participate in quarterly docent training which includes the Curator’s walk and talk lecture tour of the new exhibition.

Study and review the information contained in the Exhibition Book and DropBox to refresh their

Commitment:

Serve a three-hour shift a minimum of once or twice a month based on personal availability, primarily on weekends.

Provide scheduled group tours of the bonsai garden, sometimes as part of weekday Shinzen group tours.

Often choose to participate in special events sponsored by the CBCS and Shinzen.



MISCELLANEOUS ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT

Every organization needs a variety of support to function. Your special secretarial, organizational, artistic, speaking or technical skills could provide much needed help in achieving all of the ambitious goals of the Clark Bonsai Collection.

BONSAI SECRETARIAL SUPPORT: Transcribing information from the guest book; writing donor thank you letters; serving as recording secretary at meetings, responding to inquiries in the guest book or the website, and etc.

I.T./SOCIAL MEDIA: Posting information and pictures on Facebook, Instagram and the CBCS website. Writing responses to Yelp and TripAdvisor comments.

PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY: Use your skills to take pictures of the bonsai and the activities in the garden. Video record educational work sessions

