Wethersfield
estate & garden

Wethersfield Garden Horticultural Fellowship
Amenia, NY

Position Type: Seasonal
Compensation: $20/hr

Nestled in 1,000 acres of rolling hills in rural Dutchess County, New York, Wethersfield Estate & Garden is generally considered to be one of the finest examples of Italian Renaissance gardens in the United States, designed by Evelyn Poehler. Founded in 1938, Wethersfield is a non-profit organization devoted to land stewardship, habitat protection, conservation, culture, and the arts. Wethersfield contains a diversity of formal, woodland, and native-inspired garden spaces that use the latest horticultural knowledge to develop a lasting garden in a changing world. Wethersfield is on the National Register of Historic Places, and won the 2021 New York State Historic Preservation Award for Excellence in Historic Landscape Preservation.

The Wethersfield Fellowship seeks to train the next generation of horticulturalists. This is a 6-8 month position (beginning March or April, flexibility as to scheduling is negotiable) for forty hours a week, M-Fr, 7:30am - 3:30pm. The horticultural Fellow reports to the Head Gardener and is treated as part of the garden staff. There are rotating weekend duties and occasional evening obligations. Wethersfield offers ample opportunities for professional development and networking through field trips and local conferences/symposiums. There is also an extensive horticulture library the fellows are welcome to borrow from and use throughout their time at the garden. Housing is available and preferred.

RESPONSIBILITIES/DUTIES

- The Wethersfield Fellow will learn about ornamental horticulture and apply knowledge to maintain specific areas (including annual beds in a cutting garden, mixed perennial borders, woodland gardens, formal hedges, container displays, and established lawns) and will maintain such areas by planting, weeding, watering, trimming, mowing, mulching, record-keeping, and other tasks.
- The Fellow will learn about greenhouse management, including the propagation of plants by cuttings and seeds, soil preparation for container culture, water and fertilizer programs, and integrated pest management practices.
- Fellows are each given their own plot in our cutting garden and are tasked with the design and care of a 10’x10’ garden space

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- The Fellow will rotate work on open weekend days and will be able to conduct garden tours and/or educational programs for members of the community to gain programming and public relations experience. Outside of working weekends, Fellows may be expected to regularly close greenhouses or main estate at night.
- Fellows will participate in farm chores, such as collecting eggs and feeding chickens, peacocks, and geese.

QUALIFICATIONS/REQUIREMENTS

- Qualified applicants must have a passion for horticulture
- Horticultural education and/or previous training or experience
- Strong communication skills
- A valid driver's license
- Comfortability or willingness to learn how to operate a backpack blower, push mower, string trimmer, tractor, and zero turn mower
- Must be prepared to work in all weather conditions
- Must be able to lift 50lbs

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The hourly rate is $20 hr, other experience/qualifications will be considered. On-site housing is available. Please send a cover letter and resume to Head Gardener, Katharine Barrie at kbarrie@wethersfield.org . Please indicate whether housing is required.