

Gardens of Golden Gate Park

Conservatory of Flowers
Japanese Tea Garden
San Francisco Botanical Garden

Position Title: Garden Camp Counselor (multiple positions open)

Full or Part Time: Full Time, Monday-Friday

Regular or Temporary: Temporary, June 12, 2023 to August 11, 2023

Exempt or Non-exempt: Non-exempt

Salary: \$17/hour - \$21/hour

Gardens of Golden Gate Park is an equal opportunity employer and encourages candidates with diverse backgrounds and experiences to apply.

ABOUT THE GARDENS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

The mission of the Gardens of Golden Gate Park is to connect people to plants, the planet, and each other.

Gardens of Golden Gate Park is a public/private partnership between the San Francisco Recreation & Park Department and the San Francisco Botanical Garden Society (a nonprofit 501c3 organization doing business as the “Gardens of Golden Gate Park” or “GGGP”) to jointly operate the Conservatory of Flowers, Japanese Tea Garden, and San Francisco Botanical Garden. A Lease & Management Agreement, approved by both the Recreation & Park Commission and the Board of Supervisors, sets the terms of the partnership. The agreement is a cooperative management agreement that outlines the roles and responsibilities for each partner.

Key areas of responsibility for the nonprofit organization include volunteer engagement, education, visitor experience, philanthropy, membership, marketing, and other functions. RPD has primary responsibility for horticulture and facility management and maintenance, master planning and capital improvements conducted in collaboration with the nonprofit organization, as well as other functions. Together, RPD and the nonprofit organization collaborate on collections management within the Gardens.

The Conservatory of Flowers is a national, state, and local landmark and a place of exceptional beauty. Built in 1879, the Conservatory was the first formal structure erected in Golden Gate Park and remains an internationally renowned icon, displaying and cultivating unusual plants to heighten awareness of the pressing need to preserve threatened rainforest environments.

The Japanese Tea Garden is the oldest operating public Japanese garden in North America. This garden provides visitors from around the world with an opportunity to experience the natural beauty, tranquility, and harmony of a Japanese-style garden and was originally created as an exhibit for the 1894 California Midwinter International Exposition.

San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum opened in 1940 and is a 55-acre living museum within Golden Gate Park, showcasing 8,000 different kinds of plants from around the world. San Francisco's oceanic climate with cool dry summers, mild wet winters, and presence of fog allows the Garden to grow a diverse array of species from around the world.

POSITION SUMMARY

Gardens of Golden Gate Park's Garden Camp program serves children in grades K-5 with all-outdoor programming that focuses on educational and positive social-emotional development with peers in nature. Garden Camp connects children to plants through a combination of structured, themed activities and open-ended time to develop curiosity, initiative, imagination, and creativity. Curriculum will revolve around four main themes: gardening, art, wellness, and ecology.

Counselors are members of the Programs and Partnership Department, report to and are supervised by the Garden Camp Director.

Counselors will be responsible for the care, comfort, and safety of participants. Counselors' primary objectives are to: provide an engaging, fun, educational, age-appropriate, and safe experience for participants; provide excellent customer service to parents and caregivers; work collaboratively within the Learning and Engagement team; lead by example; and inform the development of the Camp programs in seasons to come.

Counselors are expected to follow the program's COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan and other safety protocol, including completing Mandated Reporter and First Aid/CPR training.

The Garden is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to diversity and inclusion; experience working across cultures is an asset.

Content Delivery and Community Building

- Foster a community that values relationships, thrives on empathy, sees opportunity before challenge, uses positive reinforcement, and anticipates joy around every turn. Promote character development and model positive and inclusive culture.
- Always ensure the physical and emotional safety of all campers through routine safety and wellness checks.
- Communicate with participant families to foster a warm camp community, and ensure a positive, open dialogue about health, safety, and other issues as they arise.
- Collaborate within the Camp Team and across departments to ensure both the Garden and campers thrive.
- Provide play and learning experiences which foster engagement with the natural world, develop empathy for all living things, and increase understanding and appreciation of plants and our relationship to them.

- Lead daily age-appropriate and content related activities for campers.

Camp Group Management and Support

- Provide in-person care for children with a co-counselor in a public setting.
- Contribute to curriculum with additional, appropriate, thematic content and activities that align with curricular framework.
- Stock and manage camp materials and supplies.
- Lead a group size of 10-12 participants in partnership with a co-Counselor.
- Attend weekly staff meetings.

REQUIREMENTS

- Coursework in Early childhood Education OR equivalent experience.
- Experience teaching or working with preschool and/or elementary school-aged children.
- Coursework in environmental education, botany, ecology, or other life sciences is highly desirable.
- Ability to meet the physical demands of working with children in an all-outdoor setting (lift at least 50 pounds, ability to run short distances and walk extensively, transition from sit to stand easily, and sit on the ground with campers).
- Demonstrate a passion and respect for the natural world. Be willing to get dirty, teach through play, and engage deeply.
- Commitment to full-time work with June 12 through August 11, 2023.
- **Counselors must be fully COVID-19 vaccinated by start date, including booster, or with plans to get the booster.**

Other

- Fluency in a secondary language (especially Spanish, Mandarin, Tagalog, or Russian) highly favored.
- Social-emotional competencies are highly valued.

Pre-employment requires a clear background check and reference checks.

Gardens of Golden Gate Park is an equal opportunity employer. We celebrate diversity and are committed to creating an inclusive environment for all employees.

HOW TO APPLY

Please e-mail a brief cover letter and resume with subject line, "Garden Camp Counselor" to jobs@sfbg.org. No telephone calls please.

RETURNING COUNSELORS

If you have previously been employed as a Garden Camp Counselor, there is no need to create a new cover letter. Please email gardencamp@sfbg.org with a brief reintroduction to yourself, why you are interested in returning, and we will set up a time for an interview.