



2021 Volunteer Roles Horticulture Department

COVID-19 Safety Precautions:

Due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, volunteer opportunities are limited and more information will be posted throughout the 2021 season.

Please note that while Governor Sununu's statewide mask mandate has expired, the City of Portsmouth's Mask Mandate is in effect through June 30, 2021. Additionally, Strawberry Banke Museum requires that all visitors and Museum staff abide by the [Museum's COVID-19 precautions](#) including that all are required to keep a safe distance of at least 6 feet between households at all times and wear a mask covering over mouth and nose. Thank you for your understanding and for helping to keep other volunteers, visitors, and Museum staff safe.

Horticulture Learning Center Volunteer

Public programming offered outdoors throughout the pandemic.

- Seasonal Heirloom Seed Collection throughout the historic gardens.
- Volunteer program assistance (essential oil distillation, cooking with heirlooms, culinary fermentation, flower drying, and many more).
- Research opportunities are also available. Support the Horticulture Grow Guide Database. This database is only in the beginning stage and will continue to develop with collaborative efforts between novice and expert gardeners. Select a unique plant and create or enhance a research file.

Dates & Times:

Ongoing from June 19-October 16

- Tuesday 9am-12pm
- Wednesday 10am-1pm
- Thursday 10am-1pm

Volunteers are asked to arrive at the start of the volunteers shift when feasible.

Working entire shifts is not required for volunteers.

Qualifications:

Ideal volunteers for this role are organized and comfortable with independent garden work and historical plant research. Volunteers that enjoy research projects, virtual online engagement, or assisting with educational programs in garden areas at Strawberry Banke are highly desired. Familiarity with herbalism desired but not required.

Location:

Meet at the Red Shed (Puddle Dock; See [SBM map](#)) to start on the above dates/times, as your schedule allows.

Historical Landscape Public Programming Volunteer

Volunteers are welcome to research, organize, and design educational opportunities in the historical landscape. This can be directed by the volunteer's specific expertise and area(s) of interest, and may include unique garden tours, garden craft demonstrations, and educational presentations for visitors on a particular horticulture subject.

Dates: Ongoing from June 19-October 17

Times: Saturdays in the historical landscape 10am – 3pm (1-2 hour shifts)

Locations: Multiple gardens are available to implement educational programs for the visiting public.

Qualifications:

Ability to teach engaging horticulture crafts and lessons independently in outside garden areas. Ideal volunteer candidates will have experience and confidence with public speaking and educational outreach to visitors of all ages. Basic gardening experience desired.

Students in Master Gardener programs are welcome to participate with programs in the museum's historical landscape in order to satisfy their certification requirements for community education and engagement.

Volunteer Garden Tour Guide

Lead engaging garden tours to the public while educating visitors on organic gardening, sustainable seed systems, garden design, plant cultivation, foodways, and general public outreach on the science and practice of horticulture in New England.

Dates & Times: Saturdays and Sundays at 1pm, June 19th-October 16

Garden tours run for 1 hour on average and begin in front of the visitor center.

Qualifications:

Ideal volunteers for this role have experience and comfort with public speaking. Passion for delivering engaging horticulture history and cultivation practice is desired. Ability to work independently while learning directly from garden tour training packet. More than 2-3 years experience with hands-on gardening or farming is highly desired.

Garden Tour training notes are available for volunteers who wish to learn the history of Strawberry Banke and New England agriculture.

Heirloom Flower Drying

Learn hands-on flower drying techniques for creating fantastic flower arrangements and holiday house décor. Flower ingredients are cultivated and harvested with volunteers in the historical

landscape throughout the season to support unique designs for the museum's holiday event, Candlelight Stroll, in December.

Dates & Times:

Ongoing from June 19-October 17

Wednesdays* 9am-1pm; *working the entire shift is not required.*

*Day of the week subject to change due to weather on any given week.

Location: Meet at Red Shed on Puddle Dock to start.

Qualifications:

Ideal volunteers for this role are comfortable working outside in garden areas while harvesting heirloom flowers and foliage. Volunteers who are comfortable working independently and on volunteer flower drying teams are desirable. Volunteers that are willing to dry and preserve flowers creatively at home to support holiday wreaths and flower arrangements at Strawberry Banke Museum are desired.

Flower Décor Workshops: Candlelight Stroll Preparations

Create unique and historical designs with the museum's cultivated flowers. Training available to learn the art of botanical design. Designs include wreaths, swags, flower arrangements, and ornaments. Designs are featured and on display for the public throughout the museum's holiday season in December.

Dates & Times:

November 1 - December 2, 2020, 9:30am-12:00pm (Monday-Friday)

See below for a detailed overview by week.

Location: Remote work for creating holiday decor is available throughout the pandemic.

On-site workshops inside SBM buildings may not be available; remote vs. on-site work will be determined closer to November, and will be contingent upon the CDC's guidelines for COVID-19 safety protocols at that time.

Qualifications: Ideal candidates are comfortable working independently or on teams to create indoor and outdoor house decorations with flowers, foliage, and other natural ingredients.

Volunteers that can accomplish decorations after design delegation (wreaths, roping, etc.) and basic training are coordinated is highly desired.

Overview of flower décor workshops:

Week 1:

Orienting volunteers to basic design aspects of Stroll, small crafts with dried flowers; includes the creation of picks/flower posies that add color to holiday wreaths and roping. These small flower bundles are an easy way to enhance holiday greens. Faux flower design: silk flowers and other forms of faux arrangements are traditionally used in parallel to real plant decor. Volunteers will update faux flower arrangements for multiple houses.

Week 2:

Wreath and swag creation with preserved/dried flowers. Creations made for inside and outside of historic houses. This includes very creative designs based on research and historical interpretation of change over time and the evolution of flower design in early America history. Each design is particular to certain time periods.

Ongoing small projects include homemade ornaments for holiday trees, tree topper design, small arrangements with dried flowers and fresh greens, pressed flowers for window displays, and even an amazing bird cage that we decorate with dried flowers, real bird nests, and even faux birds.

Weeks 3 and 4:

We begin incorporating more fresh greens and ingredients for large flower arrangements and large outdoor and indoor wreaths. The Horticulture Department staff and volunteers work together to create numerous and diverse wreath designs for indoor and outdoor display throughout the museums' historic houses.

The last week before Stroll begins is dedicated to placing the fantastic designs the team of volunteers have completed. Beginning with the most intricate and exuberant houses, volunteers will get the chance to place decor inside several of our historic houses over the course of four days.

Candlelight Stroll Programing in Horticulture Learning Center

(SBM's ability to safely offer this opportunity will be determined closer to November, and will be contingent upon the CDC's guidelines for COVID-19 safety protocols at that time.)

Public programs during Candlelight Stroll include wreath making demo's, essential oil distillation, and a hands-on holiday craft for families.

Dates & Times:

December 4, 5, 11, 12, 18 and 19, 2021

2-hour shifts available each night:

Location: Horticulture Learning Center (Cotton Tenant North)

Saturdays:

Shift 1: 4:30 – 7:00pm

Shift 2: 7:00 – 9:00pm

Sundays:

Shift 1: 3:30 – 6:00pm

Shift 2: 6:00 – 8:00pm

Volunteers will work closely with the Horticulture Department in 2-hour shifts during Stroll, interacting with the public on tasks such as creating crafts with kids and families, sharing information about apothecary history, conducting wreath-making demonstrations, and answering visitors' questions about how the event decorations were created.

Training will be provided by the Horticulture Department and volunteers can sign up for any of the following topics:

Essential Oil Production Demonstration (with Erik Wochholz):

Learn and teach the science of botanical extraction. Portsmouth had several apothecary shops selling medicinal products in the nineteenth century. Join the horticulture team in explaining the relevance and science of herbalism in early American and how essential oils are produced today to create an array of different products.

These demonstrations will be led by the Curator of Historic Landscapes, and is best suited for someone with essential oil production experience and/or a volunteer who has been working in the Horticulture Learning Center throughout the season.

Wreath Making Demonstration:

Teach the public about growing, preserving, and creating botanical décor. This program will give volunteers the chance to explain the details that go into creating Candlelight Stroll décor. While explaining how the Horticulture Department created an array of flower décor for the historic houses, volunteers will have a chance to teach the public the art of wreath making in process.

These demonstrations will be led independently by the volunteer, and is best suited for people who assist with the creation of Stroll decorations beginning in November.

Assist Kids Craft Activity:

Work with a SBM staff member to help children and families make a craft that they can take home with them as a gift they can give a friend or family member! Volunteers will learn before the event how to make the craft so they can help guide children and families in this engaging activity.

These volunteer opportunities can be for someone who has not been assisting with the Stroll decorations, and it's a fun experience to do with a family member!