2014 TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT INTERNSHIP

Description: The U.S. National Arboretum is constructing a new exhibit, ‘Grass Roots’ which will focus on the environmental, aesthetic, recreational, and economic benefits of turfgrass. This position will assist the exhibit coordinator with the installation and grow-in of the 1.3 acre ‘Grass Roots’ outdoor turfgrass exhibit and maintain interactive turfgrass displays which encompass golf course features, sports fields, and home lawn features. Internship is 3-6 months long and will begin in April or May 2014. Internship is paid position by hourly wage.

Qualifications: Applicants need to have either completed course work or have acquired practical experience in turf management, horticulture or a related field. Basic gardening, interest in plants, and the ability to work independently are very important.

Duties & Working Conditions: Turfgrass management intern will assist the exhibit coordinator with general turfgrass maintenance to include mowing, fertilizing, aerating, watering, and pest management. Intern will assist the exhibit coordinator in the development of turf care product application schedules for a variety of turf species in various settings (golf, sports field, home lawn) and apply fertilizer and other products as needed under supervision of the exhibit coordinator. This position will assist in maintenance of turf equipment, automated irrigation systems, and exhibit signage and hardscape features. This position will encompass interaction with the general public, industry professionals, Arboretum staff, and turfgrass scientists. Position will have the opportunity to interact with turfgrass managers at other area federal facilities, including the National Mall and Arlington National Cemetery, as well as local golf course superintendents and attend local professional development workshops/field days. Intern will assist with public workshops and events held in conjunction with exhibit and possibly assist with renovations of various turfgrass renovations on the Arboretum grounds.

Skills/Experience Required: Internship will involve heavy lifting and exposure to extreme heat and humidity. Experience operating turfgrass maintenance equipment is strongly preferred. Good interpersonal skills and the ability to interact with the public are necessary in this position. Ability to work occasionally on weekends is required.

To apply: To apply for an internship, please send a cover letter indicating availability and interest, resume, and transcripts (unofficial are acceptable) via email to geoffrey.rinehart@ars.usda.gov

There is no deadline. However, first screening of applicants will be March 10.

Questions? Contact the internship office at (202) 245-4563 or USNA.Internships@ars.usda.gov