



*Seeking Green Industry professionals to join our team as **Volunteer Horticulture Educators** for the 2024 growing season to facilitate vocational training & therapeutic horticulture programs in Greater Boston prisons.*

### About Us

Since 2013, The New Garden Society (TNGS) has taught vocational training and therapeutic horticulture programs in Greater Boston prisons. We're an organization run by farmers, landscapers, and horticulturists who want to expand local Green Industry opportunities for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people. Currently, we are a volunteer-based organization, providing pro-bono programming to our partner agencies.

### Volunteer Horticulture Educator - Position Description

The **Volunteer Horticulture Educator** will teach or co-teach sessions at a minimum once per month during the growing season (April - November). Sessions take place on a weekday morning or afternoon, usually Mondays. Sessions can be 75% garden time and 25% classroom time or vice versa depending on the facility. Classroom time is spent covering horticulture coursework and core horticulture competencies, such as weed management, plant identification, and soil care. The ideal candidate works in the Green Industry and has a passion for their livelihood. They have proven knowledge and experience in the field of horticulture and in facilitating educational programming, both independently and collaboratively. This person possesses the interpersonal skills necessary to work with diverse individuals from varied backgrounds and literacy levels. They are passionate about criminal justice reform and dedicated to expanding access to horticultural opportunities for our incarcerated neighbors in Greater Boston.

### Duties and Responsibilities

- Teach or co-teach a session at least one weekday a month (Monday, possibly Saturdays) this season as well) from April to November.
- Attend the facility's volunteer orientation and TNGS Volunteer Horticulture Educator orientation.
- Attend regular staff meetings, typically once every 6 weeks on Monday evenings.
- Take all necessary measures to be prepared for class: read field notes from the previous class, acquire supplies and get them approved, prepare a 'rain lesson' plan, and check in with TNGS staff.
- Facilitate experiential education programming in the field.
- Be courteous and respectful to our students correctional officers and administrators.
- Maintain accurate and up-to-date records of student attendance and evaluations.
- Participate in an exit interview with TNGS staff.
- Submit the Travel and Material Reimbursement form promptly.

### Required Qualifications

- *At least one full season of professional work in agriculture/gardening/landscaping/ arboriculture.*
- Teaching and/or leadership experience.
- Strong time management and organizational abilities.
- Willingness and ability to perform physically challenging work in all weather conditions.
- Excellent communication skills, positive attitude, and professional demeanor.
- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to work with individuals of all backgrounds.
- Flexibility and a sense of humor for a growing organization.
- Adept at working autonomously and collaboratively.
- Ability to commit to one season as a volunteer.
- Pass a criminal background check (CORI) administered by the prison. *Please note that prior involvement with the justice system does not automatically disqualify an individual from volunteering in this role.*

### Desired Qualifications

- A valid driver's license and access to a personal vehicle to transport program materials.
- Experience teaching adults.
- A background in ornamental landscaping, landscape design, production farm management, or greenhouse management.

### Location

The facilities where we anticipate teaching this season are located in Boston. We typically work with adults in both men's and women's facilities. Horticulture classes are 2-hour sessions on **Monday mornings or afternoons** from April through November, excluding Monday holidays. This season, we may be filling some Friday classes as well. Educators and Guest Presenters arrive at the facility 30 minutes before class and usually depart 30 minutes after class.

### Compensation

This is a volunteer position and no hourly wage is provided; however, mileage (\$0.67 per mile) is compensated. The New Garden Society provides all necessary documentation for volunteer service credit or course credit. Additionally, the Volunteer Horticulture Educator will receive insight into the workings of a small non-profit organization at the intersection of horticulture and criminal justice reform.

### To Apply

Please send a resume and letter of interest to [info@thenewgardensociety.org](mailto:info@thenewgardensociety.org) with 'Volunteer Horticulture Educator Application' in the subject line. No phone calls, please. Applications are open until March 24, 2024.