

GARDEN ASSISTANT

RAISING NEBRASKA

LOCATION: Raising Nebraska, Grand Island, Nebraska

DIRECT SUPERVISOR: Experience Coordinator, Raising Nebraska

WORKS WITH: Nebraska Extension Educators and Specialists, Volunteers, and Interns

POSITION TYPE: Part-time Seasonal/Hourly

SEASON: Mid-March through mid-November (36 weeks). Starting and ending dates are flexible, based on weather.

HOURS PER WEEK: Approximately 20-25 hours per week. Hours are flexible, based on weather and programs. Additional hours during the Nebraska State Fair.

SALARY RANGE: \$15.00 per hour

BENEFITS: None

TRAVEL: No

GARDEN OVERVIEW

Raising Nebraska: Outdoors is a 38,000 square foot outdoor living display of Nebraska agriculture and what is possible in Nebraska horticulture. Opened in 2015, Raising Nebraska: Outdoors features three main interpretative areas. The Nebraska Garden, designed in the shape of our 37th State, highlights the crops and commodities that can be found in Nebraska and planted roughly where they would be found in Nebraska. The Community Environment Garden features plants and shrubs planted at a home scale to highlight the best practices and latest trends for home gardens. The Food Systems gardens are raised beds and surrounding grounds used by Nebraska Extension to educate youth in food production and healthy eating.

Raising Nebraska and Raising Nebraska: Outdoors are operated by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources through Nebraska Extension, in partnership with the Nebraska State Fair, and the Nebraska Department of Agriculture.

This position is funded by gifts and donation to Raising Nebraska and will not be an employee of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

JOB DESCRIPTION

The Garden Assistant is an integral part of the Raising Nebraska team. Under the general supervision of the Raising Nebraska Experience Coordinator, the Garden Assistant plays a vital role in the installation and care of the Raising Nebraska: Outdoors display gardens and plantings during the spring, summer, and fall seasons (March-November). The Garden Assistant performs a wide range of general garden maintenance and gardening activities. Individuals in this position should have experience in horticulture and gardening, a general understanding of horticultural principals, and the skills necessary to perform basic horticultural tasks. This position frequently requires the expenditure of physical labor and the use of motorized equipment and other tools. All personnel are ambassadors

of Raising Nebraska and should positively interact with visitors, members, donors, trustees, volunteers, and the public.

The Garden Assistant's responsibilities will include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Plant and nurture diverse installations of trees, shrubs, vines, perennials, grasses, and crops;
- Hand water and monitor irrigation of plantings, especially during time of establishment and drought;
- Work with hand tools and basic light machinery such as lawn movers, string trimmer, hedge trimmer;
- Perform seasonal landscape work including cutting grass, planting, pruning, clean-up, leaf removal, string trims, blow debris and leaves, sweep, prune, mulch and pull weeds, and assist in other aspects of landscape maintenance.
- Scout for pests and disease;
- General clean-up of garden beds and paths, clean-up litter;
- Stage and care for equipment, supplies, and materials for daily horticulture operations;
- Assist with recordkeeping
- Assist with other responsibilities, programs, and events as necessary.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Detail-oriented, with considerable attention to order and cleanliness throughout the gardens;
- A willingness to interact with the public on an informal basis by answering questions, providing directions, communicate Raising Nebraska's horticultural goals, etc.
- Experience working with volunteers and youth preferred;
- A demonstrated understanding of the horticultural practices and procedures required for soil preparation, planting & transplanting, mulching, watering, weeding, fertilizing, pruning, propagating, mowing, raking, sweeping & blowing, and tree & brush cutting.
- Ability to work interactively and collaboratively with others
- The ability to identify frequently used woody, herbaceous, and annual landscape plants by common name.
- The ability to use shovels, trowels, fan rakes, grading rakes, spades, digging forks, pickaxes, brooms, hand shears, hand saws, loppers, pole pruners & pole saws, wheelbarrows, fertilizer spreaders, garden carts, ladders, and other hand tools effectively.
- The ability to operate push mowers, riding mowers, weed-whackers, string trimmers and other power equipment safely and effectively;
- The ability to follow written and verbal instructions in English
- Must perform all duties in a manner consistent with a public garden serving multigenerational and multicultural/multiethnic individuals and families;
- Must be aware of surroundings and vigilant to threats to the safety of visitors, volunteers, and staff, or to security of their property, ensuring that all concerns are reported promptly;
- Other duties as assigned by the Experience Coordinator.

REQUIREMENTS

- Must be over the age of 18;
- Willingness to work as part of a team or alone, in all weather conditions;
- Ability to handle light power equipment, horticultural machinery, and hand tools;
- Knowledge of plants and gardening techniques;
- Friendly personality with excellent interpersonal skills;
- Solid understanding of health and safety rules;
- Must be comfortable using pesticides and herbicides, pesticide application certificate preferred;
- Must pass a Nebraska Child Abuse/Neglect Central Registry and sex offender registry check;
- Able to work overtime, weekends, holidays as needed – with emphasis on times during the Nebraska State Fair;
- 2 years of experience in landscape and garden work, preferred
- Proof of eligibility to work in the US.
- Ability to read, write, and speak English.
- The physical strength, dexterity, and coordination sufficient to perform all physical requirements outlined below.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Perform heavy physical labor (able to lift 40 pounds) on a daily basis;
- Must be able to work out-of-doors in central Nebraska seasonal extremes;
- Bend, squat, lift, kneel, pull, stand, walk for extended periods of time;
- Use vibrating power equipment: lawn mowers, leaf blower chain saw, weed wacker;
- Perform manual dexterity tasks such as turning on and off spigots and pulling weeds.

Note: duties described above have been identified as essential functions as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

APPLICATION PROCESS

To Apply, Please submit your cover letter and resume to raisingnebraska@unl.edu. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.

Raising Nebraska is a part of University of Nebraska-Lincoln 4-H/Extension. All volunteers and staff who work directly with youth are required to complete the Nebraska 4-H screening process found at <https://4h.unl.edu/volunteer-screening>. Screenings are done in order to assure a safe, positive, and nurturing environment for all youth involved with the Nebraska 4-H programs. These screenings also provide protection for the child, the volunteer, the educator, the 4-H Council, the Extension Board, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension. If you have questions about this process, please contact nebraska4h@unl.edu.

ABOUT RAISING NEBRASKA

Raising Nebraska is a 25,000 square foot experience designed to help visitors better understand and appreciate the advancements, impact, and global leadership of Nebraska agriculture. Since its opening in 2014, Raising Nebraska

has hosted over one million people through its doors and through its off-site and digital programming. Raising Nebraska: Outdoors debuted in 2015. This 30,000 square foot space brings the indoor displays – literally – to life. The Raising Nebraska: Outdoors plantings illustrate Nebraska agriculture and what is possible in Nebraska horticulture.

The exhibit is available year-round and staffed by University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension and volunteers. Raising Nebraska and Raising Nebraska: Outdoors are operated by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources through Nebraska Extension, in partnership with the Nebraska State Fair, and the Nebraska Department of Agriculture.