



Castlebank Horticultural Centre, Lanark

Plant Propagation Volunteer



Volunteer sessions take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30am – 3:00pm

Background:

Castlebank Horticultural Centre sits within the historic Castlebank Park, on the banks of the Clyde in Lanark. We are looking for an enthusiastic individual to facilitate our plant propagation activities to provide our gardens with healthy, pesticide free, organically grown plants and seedlings. Castlebank propagation volunteers are supported by a dedicated team of staff and volunteers. Together we propagate and grow a wide range of heirloom vegetables, herbs, rare edible plants, herbaceous perennials, alpines, succulents, trees and shrubs for education and the restoration of historic Castlebank Park.

This volunteer position would be ideal for a person looking to gain valuable experience prior to entering a career in horticulture, or for an experienced gardener looking to use their skills to help out in the community.

Objectives:

- Work with our Educational Gardener Stuart and fellow volunteers to produce quality, organic seedlings, herbs and other plants for growing on in the Education gardens and Castlebank Park and to sell at Castlebank Horticultural Centre events to raise funds for ongoing projects
- Maintain and improve the propagation area including infrastructure and gardens.

Specific tasks and duties:

- Propagating by seed, cuttings, division and transplanting
- Watering, fertilising, weeding and plant detailing
- Labelling plants for sale
- Helping to maintain infrastructure and propagation surrounds

Benefits:

- Learn how to grow a wide range of edible and ornamental plants from seed or cuttings
- Meet and work with a social, friendly team with an opportunity to connect with both the Castlebank community and like-minded people
- Working outdoors
- Access to excess plant stock that we cannot sell to take home and plant in your garden
- Attend horticultural and environmental workshops at Castlebank as part of ongoing training
- Gain horticultural/industry experience

- Industry placement reference
- When we have time we're happy to give free gardening advice

Training:

- Induction and training happens on-the-job
- Horticultural workshops are available to long-term volunteers as professional development at a significantly reduced cost

Times/Days:

Tuesday and/or Thursday 9:30am – 3:00pm.

Commitment required:

- Ideally, we ask that volunteers commit to a full day (from 9:30am-3.00pm) for a minimum of one day per week. (please contact us if you are interested in the role, but cannot commit to these hours)
- Should you wish to discontinue your volunteer role with us we ask that you notify us by phone or email.

Skills/experience/ personal qualities required:

- An enthusiastic passion for being part of the Castlebank Horticultural Centre Community
- Good hand/eye coordination and fine motor skills for working with small seeds and seedlings
- Reliability. It is important that you turn up for your shift and communicate (as agreed with Educational Gardener) if you can't make it
- Ability to understand and carry out verbal instructions
- Be able to work both independently and as a part of a team
- Positive attitude and good work ethic
- Be respectful, polite and courteous to fellow volunteers
- A commitment to employ safe work practices as guided by your supervisor is mandatory.

You need to provide:

- Suitable, weather appropriate clothing for working outdoors including hat or raincoat
- Drink bottle and packed lunch

We provide:

- All tools and materials
- Protective gloves for garden work, etc
- Drinking water
- Health and Safety Policy / Volunteering Policy
- Accessible toilet facilities
- Storage lockers

Supervisors:

Stuart Ritchie (Educational Gardener)

More information on Castlebank Park and Castlebank Horticultural Centre:

<https://www.facebook.com/CastlebankPark/>

<https://lanarktrust.co.uk/our-projects/castlebank-park/>

Castlebank Horticultural Centre is managed by Lanark Community Development Trust
Registered Scottish Charity SC040584

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