

CHISWICK HOUSE & GARDENS TRUST

Volunteering at Chiswick House - Rangers

Chiswick House was built in 1729 by its owner Richard Boyle (Lord Burlington) in collaboration with the landscape gardener William Kent. Today, Chiswick House and Gardens is a hub for the local community, with 1,000,000 visits made to the Gardens each year, as well as thousands of visitors to the House and Kitchen Garden. We are a popular destination for dog walkers, families, individuals and groups who arrive at Chiswick daily in pursuit of nature and culture.

The Chiswick House and Gardens Trust is a registered charity established in April 2005, created jointly by English Heritage and the London Borough of Hounslow to integrate the management of Chiswick House and its gardens. Our objective is to advance education by the preservation, restoration and enhancement of this Grade I listed villa and registered Grade I gardens.

The Gardens are open to the public 365 days of the year from dawn until dusk. Our volunteer Rangers play a vital role in enabling us to keep the Gardens open and safe for everyone, every day.

Why does Chiswick House need your support?

We are looking for outgoing, confident individuals to join our team of Rangers. Our Rangers provide an important public presence in the Gardens, and assist with hands-on maintenance and DIY projects around the grounds. They are an integral part of the team that ensures the smooth day-to-day running of the site.

What will you be doing?

The Ranger role covers two main areas: patrolling the grounds to ensure there is a helpful presence for the public, and assisting with maintaining the general site. It is a physical job, and it is ideally suited to someone who is proactive and willing to get involved in a range of projects and odd jobs onsite.

Your main tasks will be:

- Independently patrolling the gardens in the buggy and interacting with the public, answering questions and providing information as needed
- Using radios to communicate with the wider team
- Carrying out routine tasks such as changing signs, cleansing, filling dog bag dispensers and assisting with onsite maintenance
- More hands-on DIY tasks, such as painting or sanding benches and fixing equipment
- Assisting with moving objects across the site, such as tables
- General caretaking

What qualities, skills and experience do you need?

You will need:

- A driver's license
- Proof of an up-to-date tetanus shot
- If you are lifting and moving heavy objects, you must wear steel toe cap boots
- Internet access so that you can sign up to shifts and stay in contact with our team

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We are looking for:

- Proactive, independent people who are comfortable with lone working
- DIY skills – experience in roles that have involved carpentry or painting would also be advantageous
- Common sense and approachability, as you will be interacting with the public
- An interest in wildlife or willingness to learn more

How much time will you be expected to give and when?

For now Rangers operate Monday-Friday, and ideally you will be able to volunteer for one shift one day a week. There are two shifts a day:

- Morning shift: 09:00 – 12:30
- Afternoon shift: 12:30 – 16:00

We are looking for people who are reliable and able to commit to the same shift every week, with of course exceptions for planned holidays or illness.

What can you expect from us?

- To be treated fairly and with respect.
- To be recognised and appreciated for your contributions.
- To have an enjoyable experience in a fascinating environment.
- To be provided with training including familiarisation with the site and staff, Health and Safety, social and historical context and some art handling and movement training.
- To be provided with a comfortable space in which to take breaks, with tea and coffee available all day.
- Free entry to Chiswick House & the Kitchen Garden for yourself.
- Discounts in Shop, Café and some partner events held on the estate.
- Access to ValueYou discounts on completion of 100 hours of volunteering.
- Opportunities to meet and socialise with other Chiswick House & Gardens volunteers, including twice annual volunteer parties.
- Reimbursement of travel costs up to £5 per shift.

What will we expect from you?

- To be the friendly face of Chiswick House.
- To enhance the visitor experience.
- To attend induction and training sessions.
- To understand and follow our security, safety and evacuation procedures.
- To maintain positive working relationships with staff, other volunteers and members of the public.
- To be reliable in attendance, to be appropriately dressed and to wear the provided uniform where applicable.

How to get involved

If you are interested in volunteering at Chiswick House or have any further queries regarding this role, please contact Vanessa by email, quoting 'Volunteer Ranger 2021': volunteering@chgt.org.uk

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There is no need to send us a CV, but in your email you can tell us a little bit about your background and experience. Please **email us by 27th August**, as there will be **an induction half-day during the week commencing 30th August**. Here you can learn more about the role and what it entails. Following this you will have the opportunity to go on a shift shadowing one of our current Rangers, followed by a six week probationary period to check that you are comfortable with the role.

4 August 2021

This document is intended as a guide to volunteering at Chiswick House and is not legally binding.