

Exciting volunteering opportunity available at Knightshayes that will help you to launch your gardening career.

Full Time Volunteer Gardener

Join the professional team of gardeners at Knightshayes to learn the skills and receive the experience that will help you to go on to enjoy a successful horticultural career.

Knightshayes has the best of the past and the present. It is a Victorian masterpiece steeped in history whilst being a forward thinking garden under constant development. Home to one of the most diverse plants collections in the country, this stunning 262 acre estate is made up of the famous 50 acre ornamental and woodland garden and the 2 ½ acre organic walled kitchen garden, both set in extensive parkland.

As a Full Time Volunteer Gardener you will work four days a week and play a key role in the care and development this exceptional Grade II* gardens with its extensive plant collection. We are offering a 12 month placement so you can get a thorough grounding in support of your new horticultural career.

In return you will be offered free accommodation on site, (pending agreement to the special terms and conditions), practical support with professional training opportunities and the chance to gain all round practical experience by working between the ornamental, woodland garden and the fully productive walled kitchen garden.

To apply please go to www.nationaltrust.org.uk and follow the full time volunteering link to opportunities in Devon.

Closing date for applications: Friday 24 February 2012

Full Time Volunteer Gardener Role, Knightshayes: Additional Information:

The successful candidate will have access to relevant training, both on the job and via more formal learning routes.

We are looking for a commitment of 12 months for 4 days per week. The successful candidate will be able to look for local paid work in conjunction with the placement and will be able to continue to look for permanent paid employment for the duration of the placement. Rent free accommodation, pending agreement to the terms and conditions of occupation, is available for the volunteer. Utilities and council tax will be paid for by the National Trust. The accommodation will be shared with one other full time volunteer. The flat is just off the main visitor route and residents will need to appreciate that they will

come into regular contact with visitors, staff and volunteers whether they are at work or off duty. Volunteers must have consideration for the other residents and for our visitors. The Property Manager reserves the right to ask any volunteer to leave the accommodation with a weeks notice or without any notice in the case of gross misconduct. The accommodation is provided for the volunteer only so partners, family, friends of the volunteer are not allowed to live in the accommodation or stay over without consent from the Garden & Park Manager.

'White goods' are provided in the accommodation, comprising of cooker, fridge and washing machine. Also provided are beds and basic furnishings. All of these items must be kept in good working order by the volunteer subject to normal wear and tear. The accommodation must be kept to a good standard of cleanliness. The accommodation will be inspected on a monthly basis to ensure that these standards are being met.

The volunteer will be required to sign an occupancy agreement for the accommodation.

A Criminal Records Bureau check will also be required before the volunteer starts the placement.

Knightshayes

Knightshayes is one of several hundred large country houses built by the Victorians in the boom years of agricultural and industrial development during the 1860s and early 1970s. It was the family home for the Heathcoat Amory family, first established by John Heathcoat the lace and textile entrepreneur. Knightshayes mansion has a strong gothic style and was designed by architect William Burges. Knightshayes was passed over to the Trust in 1972.

The Garden Team

The Gardens and surrounding areas (262 acres) is the responsibility of the Garden & Park Manager who is supported by three Area Supervisors, 2 full time gardeners, a seasonal gardener, part time plant records officer and a large dedicated team of garden volunteers.

The gardens at Knightshayes consists of a Grade II* ornamental and woodland garden containing formal terraces, yew hedges, herbaceous borders, formal lawns and an extensive woodland garden with plant collections of rhododendrons, camellias, magnolias, hydrangeas, mahonias, cornus and many wild collected and unique specimens.

The 2½ acre walled kitchen garden is managed organically and all the produce is sold to local traders and Knightshayes very own restaurant. The garden therefore has to be ornamental and productive which is an important balance whilst making the most use of every area for a diverse range of fruit and vegetables.

The parkland is managed organically under the higher level stewardship scheme to maintain and develop a diverse range of wild flowers, beneficial insects, mosses, lichens and fungi. The woodland has impressive ancient trees and a large collection of Douglas Fir.