

Bernheim Outreach Ambassador

Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest, a 16,000+ acre protected forest in Kentucky, about 25 miles south of Louisville is seeking a community focused Ambassador that will work to break down barriers and offer new experiences for young people across Kentuckiana to connect with nature.

Bernheim is home to a 600-acre arboretum, designated as Kentucky's official arboretum. The natural landscape features 40+ miles of hiking trails and extensive natural areas managed for conservation purposes. Its woodlands, prairies, and wetlands make up the largest privately-owned forest in the Eastern United States dedicated to education and conservation. Bernheim is a privately owned not-for-profit, relying on donations and memberships, whose mission is to connect people with nature. Annually, over 350,000 people experience Bernheim through visits, educational programs, field trips, and Bernheim festivals.

Ambassador Mission

- Creates welcoming and accessible opportunities for urban and rural youth to develop deep personal connections to nature at Bernheim and in neighboring communities
- Provides access to learning and work opportunities within Bernheim professions practiced at Bernheim: conservation, horticulture, sustainability, stewardship, arts in nature, and nature-based education, and guest services
- Intentionally communicates with communities and groups that have historically not been reached in effort to maintain existing relationships and foster new relationships
- Fosters lasting relationships between Bernheim and area community organizations

Responsibilities and Activities

The Ambassador is expected to work a regular 40-hour weekly schedule and divide the workweek between onsite activities at Bernheim and offsite outreach activities including the Louisville Rites of Passage program, community groups, schools, and other organizations.

- Develops a strong working knowledge of Bernheim and the ability to guide/host visiting groups onsite and present about Bernheim offsite
- Works with the Facilitator of Outreach and other Bernheim staff to create a strategic workplan, provide regular updates on outreach efforts, and keep accurate records of activities/outcomes
- Showcases the work of the Ambassador via blogs, social media, newsletter articles and other platforms
- Supports Louisville Rites of Passage program by assisting program leadership
- Supports and develops existing partner relationships; cultivates new strategic partnerships with area community organizations; and plans, manages, and carries out projects with partners
- Attends networking opportunities as a Bernheim representative
- Gives presentations and participates in other outreach programs at schools, community centers, universities, and other appropriate locations

- Organizes field trips and other programs for partner organizations
- Identifies real or perceived obstacles for underserved communities in connecting with nature and advocates for solutions
- Participates in other Bernheim activities, events and festivals as requested

Desired Background, Experience, and Skills

Because of the public representation associated with this position, Bernheim is looking for specific personality traits as much as technical skills and/or professional experience. Qualified candidates will have:

- An interest in nature, conservation, gardening, and environmental and social justice
- Proficiency in computer research skills as well as working knowledge of Microsoft programs
- Basic skills and knowledge in at least one of the following: nature education, environmental sciences, horticulture, nature arts, social justice
- Positive, can-do attitude, self-starter and willingness to learn on the job
- Confident public speaking, persuasive writing, and strong, active listening skills
- Strong social and networking skills; social media experience
- Ability to quickly develop ongoing acquaintances with Louisville's underserved communities, including schools, neighborhood community centers, and other institutions
- Ability to work independently and flexibly, and manage time effectively
- Critical thinking and problem-solving skills, as well as open-mindedness and creativity
- Have reliable transportation and a valid driver license

The **strongest** candidates will have:

- Experience in community organizing, motivating and inspiring connection in others
- Lived experience as a person from an underserved community
- Spanish language fluency
- University degree in a relevant discipline

To submit your interest and qualifications for this dynamic contract position, please send your resume to Human Resources, hr@bernheim.org.

Pay Rate: \$20/hr at an average of 40 hours/week

Benefits for this 2023 contract position include 40 hours Paid Time Off (PTO) and 5 days Sick Time.

Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest is proud to be an equal opportunity employer. We celebrate diversity and are committed to creating an inclusive environment for all employees. We recruit, employ, train, compensate, and promote without regard to race, color, national origin, creed, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, parental status, disability, age, veteran status, or any other status protected by law.