Our Sustainable Mission: to ensure the Idaho Botanical Garden is serving its employees and the community in a socially, economically, and environmentally responsible way through sustainable practices, as well as public outreach regarding environmental stewardship.

Volunteer Sustainability Internship

As southern Idaho’s largest public garden, the Idaho Botanical Garden (IBG) has cultivated 12 specialty gardens across 15 acres right beneath the Boise area foothills. Our diverse plant collections offer year-round insight into a wide range of landscape styles appropriate for our region. IBG is a public nonprofit focused on connecting the public to nature and providing botanical education.

Research Topics

The Volunteer Sustainability Intern will work with the Sustainability Committee chair and members to design their own research project to be conducted at the Idaho Botanical Garden. Available research projects include studying plant phenology and climate change, helping with native plant restoration, analyzing IBG’s energy usage using data from Idaho Power, tracking the waste stream from various departments, working to create and implement a zero waste policy and marketing the policy to staff and visitors, calculating the carbon footprint of all or part of the organization, and researching potential alternative fuel equipment and vehicles.
Volunteer Sustainability Internship
Interns will coordinate with the Sustainability Committee Chair to develop a schedule and day-to-day tasks. Internship is unpaid.

Application Requirements
- Demonstrated interest in conservation, environmental studies, or non-profit management.
- A record of self-sufficiency and independent working behavior
- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Commitment to a set schedule
- Applications will be accepted for the spring between December 15th and February 1st, with a start date of around March 1st. Applications for the summer will be accepted beginning April 1st and ending May 1st, with a start date of around June 1st.

Internship Experience
- Design and complete their own observation-based experiment
- Have the opportunity to submit their findings to Public Garden, the journal of the American Public Garden Association
- Work directly with a local non-profit to improve efficiency and sustainable procedures

Internship Benefits
- Experience interning at a growing, nationally recognized public garden
- An understanding of the structure and operations of a public garden
- A one-year membership to the Garden (must complete over 100 hours)

How to Apply
Send a cover letter indicating which research project you are interested in and why, along with a resume and two reference contacts to Anna Lindquist at: anna@idahobotanicalgarden.org

Please indicate whether you are interested in interning in the spring (March-May or the summer (June-September). Exact start dates and hours are flexible.