

Grower and Groundskeeper

Department: Greenhouse and Grounds

Supervisor: Jenna Hamm

Position Term: Early or mid-May through mid-September

Position Description The Grower and Groundskeeper is responsible for producing organic vegetables and flowers (in a 20ft x 40ft greenhouse and outdoor raised beds) that are incorporated into the meals at Camp Denali & North Face Lodge. Maintaining production of vegetables and flowers, maintaining a composting system, caring for a lawn, maintaining grounds and decorative flower boxes and hanging baskets at both lodges, providing direction and supervision of part-time assistant(s), and interacting with occasional guests to explain the greenhouse operation are the essential responsibilities of the Grower and Groundskeeper.

Compensation Base rate \$136.40/per day. There are no charges for room or board during the operating season. A seasonal travel allowance (\$575 per person/full work season) is provided to defray the cost of travel to and from Alaska for hires from out of state. Gratuities are pooled and divided equally among all staff, amounting to approximately \$500/person/month.

Supervisory Responsibilities The Grower and Groundskeeper typically works with and supervises one to two co-workers part-time who cover the Grower's two days off and some additional time. The Grower is responsible for training those assistants and providing them with detailed instruction for daily tasks. The Grower works with the Operations Supervisor for staffing assistance with select chores.

Major Functions The Grower and Groundskeeper plans all of the decorative flower and greenhouse plantings with the owners and Executive Chef during the season or in the off-season. Each spring they order and pick up all of the materials, tools, and plants necessary for the whole season. The responsibilities of the Grower and Groundskeeper encompass the following: pre-season preparation of greenhouse, outdoor beds and compost development, scheduling vegetable plantings for consistent, continuous harvest, planting, weeding, maintaining crops and outdoor beds, watering and caring for indoor plants, harvesting, cleaning and storing produce. Responsibilities include overseeing the upkeep of a small lawn, lodge grounds and trails, monitoring for and pulling weeds, and maintaining and developing some areas around the lodges landscaped with native perennials. Cordial, welcoming, and informative interaction with curious guests and staff to explain the greenhouse operation is also part of the job.

Knowledge, Skills, Abilities A solid educational and experiential background in horticulture and organic gardening are desired, including knowledge of composting, integrated pest management, crop rotation and landscaping experience with native perennials and non-native annuals. Experience growing in the sub arctic is a plus.

Other requirements A willingness and ability to fly in a small, single-engine plane is necessary for pre-season transportation to the lodges. A valid driver's license and a willingness and ability to drive on narrow gravel roads are also required.

Working Conditions & Physical Demands Working conditions include a hot and muggy greenhouse and all kinds of outdoor weather. The job requires a high level of physical fitness including the ability to lift heavy objects repeatedly, to bend over for long periods of time, and to rake, shovel, turn compost, and carry buckets of soil among other tasks. Patience and care with methodical, detailed tasks such as planting seeds, daily harvesting, weighing and recording, planning, reading and research are also required.