Garden Center Supervisor Internship

Darby Pethrick

Background
I worked for Shannon Landscape & Garden Center in Stratford, Connecticut from May 10th - August 15th 2021. I found this internship online through an advertisement for the business. I emailed the supervisor inquiring about open positions.

The Garden Center portion of the Shannon business first opened this past May, therefore I was the first to hold the ‘Garden Center Supervisor’ position.

Mission
“Building better landscapes and better relationships one client at a time”

On The Job
My main duties while on the job were:

• Hand watering the entire plant stock daily.
• Recording weekly inventory of stock.
• Unloading, tagging and aesthetic placement of incoming plant deliveries.
• Customer service. Aiding customers in selecting the appropriate varieties for their landscape.
• Working the register and answering phone.

Recording Inventory
I was responsible for recording weekly inventory. To do so, I printed the current inventory, found each variety and recorded the current count. I would then input this into the Shopify computer system. This process would take 2-3 days to complete since we consistently stocked over 200 plant varieties.

Register Duties
In addition to garden center duties, I commonly covered the register and answered the phones. In the shop I aided customers in finding appropriate fertilizers, bird feed, garden tools and more. In order to do so I learned about each product and their appropriate use.

Garden Center Display Area Duties
As the Garden Center Supervisor I managed the front display area. I aided customers in selecting the appropriate plant varieties for their needs and environment. I memorized the names, growth habits and prices of all plant varieties in order to answer customer questions. Some customers sought out one specific plant, while others wished to redesign their entire yard. I encouraged customers to integrate native and pollinator varieties into each design or purchase.

Reflection
For the future I hope to have a career in community development, with a focus on urban sustainable agriculture. My experience at Shannon Garden Center allowed me to gain horticultural knowledge that is crucial for urban agriculture. I also developed the skills necessary to educate others about horticulture and their landscapes.

This internship built upon my preexistent interest in the enhancement of urban landscapes and the integration of green areas. I would love to find an internship geared more towards the community development side of my interests where I can apply the horticultural knowledge that I gained from this internship to real world scenarios.

Recommendations
• Don’t be afraid to reach out to businesses and ask about open positions.
• Ask lots of questions to supervisors in order to get the most out of your experience.
• Remember the importance of memorization, attentiveness, and thoroughness.

https://shop.shannonlandscaping.com/