

## Conservation Specialist I

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### Job Summary

The Conservation Specialist I is responsible for performing activities related to surveying, monitoring, collecting, growing, and restoring plants and ecosystems of conservation concern to advance San Diego Botanic Garden (SDBG)'s science and conservation objectives. This position is also involved in maintaining and enhancing the plants, gardens, and grounds of SDBG and associated project sites. This is a full-time (40 hours/week), non-exempt position with starting pay at \$18.00/hour, requiring occasional weekend and evening shift availability. This position reports to the Director of Conservation Horticulture.

### Essential Functions

- Assist in the design, planning, and implementation of field surveys, monitoring and plant collecting; habitat restoration and vegetation management; and other science and conservation research projects.
- Perform horticultural activities including, but not limited to, planting, propagating, transplanting, pruning, fertilizing, watering, weeding, and pest management.
- Assist with the propagation, care, and maintenance of plants in the SDBG science and conservation nursery.
- Assist with SDBG laboratory and *ex situ* conservation bank activities and maintenance.
- Safely operate and maintain hand tools, power tools, electric carts, tractors, and other equipment.
- Assist with irrigation system setup and maintenance.
- Assist in coordinating volunteer work parties and activities.
- Assist in the implementation of outreach and education classes, workshops, meetings, and events.
- Work closely with the Senior Director of Science and Conservation, Director of Conservation Horticulture, and other staff of the Department of Science and Conservation to advance departmental and organizational goals.
- Work collaboratively with other Departments to advance the SDBG's mission and goals.
- Assist with other SDBG activities and tasks as needed.

### Competencies

- Adept at identifying a wide range of plants, plant communities, and ecosystems in Southern California.
- Ability to follow detailed protocols related to the collection and management of sensitive data and delicate biological samples.
- Knowledge of and ability to conduct field data collection, including familiarity with ArcGIS applications.
- Ability to follow work, health and safety, and project protocols even in wilderness environments, without supervision.
- Ability to plant, propagate, transplant, prune, fertilize, water, weed, and apply pest management for plants and gardens.
- Ability to prepare propagules for *ex situ* conservation banking, including drying, processing, and packaging.

- Ability to propagate plants in a laboratory setting (*in vitro*).
- Ability to prepare and preserve herbarium specimens.
- Possess a general knowledge of plants and their culture.
- Ability and interest in working in a team environment, with staff and volunteers.
- Ability and interest in public outreach and education regarding plant science and conservation.
- Ability to be courteous and helpful to all SDBG visitors, at all times.

## Education and Experience

- College-level (Bachelor's) or higher degree in horticulture, ecology, biology, natural resources management, environmental science, or other related fields -- Preferred. Relevant non-academic experience may be considered.
- 1+ years of fieldwork experience -- Required.

## Work Scheduling

- Must be available to work some weekends, holidays, and evening shifts, as needed.

## Physical Requirements

- Ability to work a full shift in the outdoors including strenuous activity.
- Ability to lift and carry a minimum of 50 lbs.
- Ability to work in remote areas under sometimes adverse climatic conditions.

## Other Duties

- Perform other duties or special projects as assigned.

## Additional requirements

- Must possess a valid driver's license.
- Pass a background check

## SDBG Diversity Statement

San Diego Botanic Garden is committed to creating, maintaining and growing a welcoming and inclusive environment. Just as our natural world relies on plant diversity, we believe that cultivating diversity amongst our staff and volunteers contributes to a flourishing Garden. We are dedicated to ongoing conversations as we celebrate and support the unique attributes of all people.

**To apply: Submit your résumé and cover letter to [hr@sdbgarden.org](mailto:hr@sdbgarden.org).**