Internship at the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens

Shannon Humphries, Utah State University | Supervisor, Aaron Sommers |

Overview:

This summer I worked as an intern for the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens in Cheyenne, Wyoming and was specifically over the Paul Smith Children’s Village. I applied for an internship at this garden because I volunteered in the garden in the past and knew it would be a rewarding experience.

Favorite Part:

The most rewarding part of my internship was working in the new conservatory. The botanic gardens just opened the 28,000 square foot extension in August. I was able to help convert an empty area with a dirt floor to a indoor oasis. It is breathtaking and a beautiful addition to our community.

Intern Responsibilities:

- Plant and maintain all vegetable beds
- Assist in the planting and preparing of the conservatory
- Assist with weekly children’s classes
- Supervise children’s activities
- Maintain moisture levels throughout the gardens, green houses, and bedding plants
- Design, plant, and maintain city beds
- Supervise garden volunteers
- Coordinate planting of thousands of annuals
- Open and close gardens

Things Learned:

- Identification of plants
- Proper planting seasons
- Necessary plant environments and climates
- Greenhouse maintenance
- Integrated pest management methods
- Landscape design
- Required soil composition for various planting environments
- Teaching methods for all ages
- Improved communication skills
- Leadership abilities

Conclusion:

Doing my internship at the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens was an overwhelmingly amazing experience. I would recommend doing a biology internship at a botanic garden, especially for people interested in plant science.

Picture 1 (Left): Helping a group of volunteers plant the front entrance.
Picture 2 (Right): Four of the annual beds I planted this summer.
Picture 4 (Right): Vegetable beds before and after the summer.
Picture 3 (Left): The process of planting the new conservatory.