

Castle Climbing Centre
The Castle Climbing Centre
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Garden work placement/apprenticeship

Thank you for your enquiry about our garden work placement.

Please find enclosed:

- A description of what the apprenticeship involves.
- A description of the type of person we are looking for (Person Specification).

About Castle Climbing

The Castle Climbing Centre is the premier indoor climbing centre in South East England and receives more visitors than any other climbing centre in the UK. It is housed within a magnificent and imposing Victorian building which was formerly a water pumping station at Manor House in North London.

Since 30th May 2009, the Castle has been working hard to implement an environmental policy with the aim of "making the Castle Climbing Centre a benchmark for environmental and economic sustainability and to demonstrate that there is a place for sport and commerce in a sustainable future without compromising financial success and high standards." In 2012 The Castle won two environmental awards

Castle Garden Project

Since September 2009, we have been working to develop the green space surrounding the centre in order to realise its full potential. This has been an exciting project with the vision to create a productive garden with areas for relaxation, based on the principles of permaculture design. The garden has café plots, herb growing areas, forest garden with fruit & nut trees, pond, bee hives, garden shelter, cob oven. The garden is now starting to focus on production and supplements the kitchen with vegetables, herbs and fruit. We also produce herb products for our shop. Its focus is also on education, by working with volunteers, staff and local community and through holding regular events.

We are currently recruiting our first apprentice/work placement volunteer to join the garden team to learn how to work and manage a community food growing garden as part of a business's environmental and social aims. As well as being a productive garden for vegetables, fruit and herb teas for the café. We are looking for an enthusiastic person who is keen to learn how to grow food in a sustainable way, enjoy working outdoors and working with others and looking to develop their skills in community gardening and food growing.

Additional information about the Castle and the garden can be found on our website and about the garden our environmental blog: www.castle-climbing.co.uk

If after reading the information you would like to apply, please enclose a CV and a covering letter which outlines why you would be suitable for this opportunity. Please send to ida@castle-climbing.co.uk

Applicants will be short-listed according to how well they meet the criteria in the person specification.

Closing date for applications is **Monday April 15th 2013**

Short listed applicants will be informed by phone by **Thursday 18th April**.

If you do not hear by then, please assume that you have not been shortlisted.

Interviews will be held on **Thursday 25th April and Friday 26th April 2013**. Position starts 2nd May and runs until 26th September 2013.

The apprentice will learn all aspects of running our Garden project by:

1. Assisting the Garden co-ordinator, and other garden staff on site one day a week. Mainly Thursdays. Tasks include seed sowing, planting out, record keeping, weeding, watering, making compost, general garden maintenance & grounds work (you will get a chance to learn to scythe!) & taking part in helping organise garden events.
2. Helping to harvest vegetables, fruits, herbs for the Castle Kitchen & Café. Also assist with drying and processing herbal teas.
3. Supporting and supervising volunteers.
4. Supervising the garden work day and harvest when the garden co-ordinator and garden staff are absent.
5. Having the opportunity to attend tutorials run by Growing Communities for their apprentices (Allens Gardens nearby – every second Monday of the month). Also 4 workshops of their choice run by Capital Growth project. (www.capitalgrowth.org/training)

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Successful applicants will be able to show that they:

- Want to grow & harvest fruit and vegetables for the Castle Kitchen & café
- Are committed to the aims of The Castle Climbing Centre
- Are able to work outdoors in all weathers
- Are reliable, hardworking and organised
- Would benefit from this apprenticeship
- Work well with other people
- Could supervise volunteers

Desirable

- Have some experience in growing food
- Have practical skills appropriate to working in a garden
- Have an interest in climbing

The placement is unpaid, although apprentices receive lunch from the Castle café as well as be given the opportunity to attend tutorials and food growing workshops in London.