

Urban Forester - Government

JOB DESCRIPTION

URBAN FORESTERS working for a governmental agency will administer grant applications and programs, oversee industry promotional programs such as Tree City USA (Urban Forest Services), and serve as an information source to the public, municipal arborists, and other tree professionals. Urban foresters will also work to establish and maintain sustainable urban forests, and contribute to the health and well-being of urban communities.



TYPICAL BACKGROUND

Backgrounds vary, but may include experience in other governmental agencies, city foresters, university experiences, and commercial enterprises. All include some aspect of tree care experience and significant communication skills.

EDUCATION/TRAINING NEEDS

- ✓ Computer skills (word processing, databases, spread sheets)
- ✓ Good communication skills (verbal and written)
- ✓ Governmental procedures and policies
- ✓ Grant preparation skills
- ✓ Insect and disease diagnosis and treatment requirements
- ✓ Knowledge of personnel rules
- ✓ Program and project management
- ✓ Proper tree selection and planting procedures
- ✓ Pruning principals and techniques
- ✓ Scientific technologies of the industry
- ✓ Tree identification and biology
- ✓ Understanding of OSHA rules
- ✓ Understand of plan drawings

EDUCATION TRAINING MATERIALS

- ✓ *A Consultant Guide to Writing Effective Reports* (ASCA)
- ✓ *ANSI A300 Standards for Tree Care Operations (or applicable national standards)*
- ✓ *Arboriculture and the Law* (Merullo and Valentine)
- ✓ *Arboriculture: Integrated Management of Landscape Trees, Shrubs, and Vines* (Harris et al.)
- ✓ *Arborists' Certification Study Guide* (ISA)
- ✓ *Best Management Practices Series* (ISA)
- ✓ *The Practical Science of Planting Trees* (Watson and Himelick)
- ✓ *This is PR: The Realities of Public Relations* (Newsom et al.)
- ✓ *Tree Risk Assessment Manual* (ISA)
- ✓ *Up By Roots: Healthy Soils and Trees in the Built Environment* (Urban)
- ✓ *Urban Forestry: Planning and Managing Urban Greenspaces* (Miller)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT

A four-year degree in forestry or a related field will be required. Strong interpersonal communication skills will be highly beneficial. Experience with computers and presentation skills are desirable.

CERTIFICATION/LICENSES

ISA Certified Arborist[®] credential and State Pesticide Applicator License are strongly recommended. ISA Certified Arborist Municipal Specialist[®] and ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification credentials are also recommended.

TYPICAL FUTURE CAREER PATHS

Professionals may move to other governmental roles within their own agency or other units such as city foresters.