Garden Docent Responsibilities

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* Study your assigned garden information and become familiar with your property and tour theme or street/neighborhood history.
* Your Senior Docent will contact you at least one week prior to the tour; if you don’t hear from her or him, please contact them.
* Make every effort to attend a pre-tour visit if the homeowner requests it; if not, arrive at least ½ hour early on the day of the tour to become acquainted with the property.
* Dress to impress! You represent Charleston! Layer up – temperatures may change
* You may relate additional facts and stories about the property and, of course, answer guests’ questions to the best of your ability. If you are unable to answer a question, ask a fellow docent for help and/or relay it to your Senior Docent who will pass it along to staff for research.

Tips

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* Take some time to learn Charleston’s garden history. Jim Cothran’s *Gardens of Historic Charleston* is an excellent place to start.
* Look beyond the plants. How does the environment shape them: i.e., sunlight, temperature in walled spaces, etc.
* Note interesting accents like pots and statues and auxiliary structures if they add to the landscape.
* In an emergency, call the staff or 911. Please use common sense.
* At the end of the tour, check for trash, water bottles, etc. Leave nothing behind.
* Rain or shine, the tour goes on.