

## Hamptons help wanted ads offer glimpse into needs of wealthy

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Hire Society, a placement agency for domestic staff, drives its vintage Bentley in the Southampton Fourth of July parade. Photo Credit: Hire Society

If you're in the market for a hands-on house manager with business expertise and a willingness to perform weekly mani-pedis, you're not alone. Summer in the Hamptons means a new crop of household employees and wealthy families seeking their help, whether it's a chef for a few summer months or a travel-ready nanny for the long term.

"A family based in NYC with a seasonal home in Southampton is looking for a Domestic Couple for their Southampton home," reads one posting on EstateJobs.com. "They will also be needed to have the initiative to know what is needed without direction."

Another posting asks for a seasonal domestic couple to maintain "a fine collection of art, antiques, and furniture" and possess a "knowledge of vegetable gardening," among other duties.

A listing for an experienced New York City housekeeper who can travel to the family home in East Hampton calls for someone who can maintain “museum-quality cleanliness” and knows how to care for fine garments. “Exposure to yachts and private aircraft a plus,” reads another.

“The largest requirement is that they want the best, and the best will vary, based on each individual’s personal wants,” said David Youdovin, CEO of Hire Society, which has offices in New York, Southampton and Palm Beach, and works with about 600 families. “These homes run like a boutique hotel, except the guest never changes.”

Forrest Barnett, a former butler and head of Hire Society’s Southampton office, said the majority of families based in Manhattan also have residences in the Hamptons. He explained that summer work for domestic staff is far from easy. The hours and amount of work are often higher during the summer season when the wealthy strive for a “kind of casual elegance,” he said.

Youdovin, who was also a butler before starting Hire Society, said working in the Hamptons might mean whipping up a luncheon for 10 weekend guests or providing hours of entertainment for the kids. Hire Society sometimes makes house calls to provide the training for those skills, with trainers showing up at estates in the company’s vintage Bentley.

Many postings advertise yearly salaries for live-in help at six figures. One posting for a summer live-in, winter live-out house manager in an unspecified location in the Hamptons offers up to \$125,000 with healthcare benefits “for the right candidate.” Many listings were looking for candidates with at least 10 years of experience.