



Sherman School Garden

-Contract Employment- Youth Garden Educator and/or Substitute

The Garden Educator is a part-time position that leads garden science and nutrition education lessons and works with teachers and parent/community volunteers to ensure that Sherman Elementary maximizes the educational potential of its garden.

Hours: 2 hours weekly; non-school hours, plus special events

Position start dates: Spring 2018

Compensation: Hourly rate based on experience; Independent Contractor Position.

Supervision & Reporting

The After-School Garden Educators and Substitutes report to the Garden Coordinator.

Position Description

I. TEACHING

- Primary age group: Elementary School Students from Pre-K to 5th Grade.
- Group size 10-20 students.
- Lead students through propagation, planting, cultivation, harvesting and maintenance activities in the school's outdoor classroom; which may include vegetable beds, habitat gardens, orchard and vermicompost and compost areas.
- Teach a variety of subjects, including ecology, nutrition, math, science, language arts and art, in the school's outdoor classroom.
- Lead nutrition-based food preparation lessons incorporating produce students have grown.
- Monitor, document and report on student participation and behavior and provide feedback on impact of garden lessons.
- Be a positive role model: model respect and curiosity for learning, and encourage students' interests and talents.

II. GARDEN SITE STEWARDSHIP

- Manage and maintain outdoor classroom program facilities and equipment — School tool shed, rakes, shovels, hand tools, and all materials that belong to the garden program.
- Manage and maintain the appearance of the school gardens with students and during preparation and cleanup time.

III. COMMUNICATION, LEADERSHIP, AND OUTREACH

- Collaborate with garden instructional staff to coordinate activities, lessons and materials.
- Communicate via email (preferred) or phone on a regular basis to garden team members and volunteers.
- When needed, participate in community workdays and school special events.
- Assist in orientation, training and supervision of volunteers and interns.
- As a member of educational and sustainable environmental communities, represent the school garden positively and support our mission.

Qualifications

EDUCATION & REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum 2 years college education
- Demonstrated ability to work with diverse populations, including youth and adults
- Strong oral and written communication skills.
- Ability to manage 15-20 elementary-age students in the garden and classroom setting.
- Teaching experience and/or credential a plus.
- Outdoor group management experience preferred.
- Knowledge of or interest in organic gardening, urban gardening, botany, environmental science, food systems, food access.
- Bilingual a plus.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Possession of a valid California Drivers' License

- Background check screening, including Tuberculosis PPD skin test.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS AND WORKING CONDITIONS

- Ability to work with frequent interruption and to simultaneously supervise a variety of tasks.
- Ability to stand, stoop, reach and bend. Mobility of arms to reach, dexterity of hands to grasp and manipulate large and small objects.
- Ability to read small print.
- Ability to stand for long periods.
- Ability to lift, push and/or pull objects, which may weigh approximate 50 pounds.
- Ability to work outdoors in a physically demanding environment.

Applicant Procedures

1. Carefully read the job description above.
2. Copy each of the sentences A to D below into an email and answer the questions posed about your experience (education, work, other). These correspond to details in the job description. If portions of your resume help answer the questions, if you like, you may paste those into your answers.
3. Send your answers to the questions to: info@shermangrows.com and attach a resume with references.
4. We will acknowledge receipt of your application and notify you if we wish to talk with you further about the position.

Application Questions

- A. What experience do you have teaching and working with K-5 students?
- B. What experience do you have in gardening and environmental education?
- C. In no more than five sentences, how would you develop hands-on gardening activities for children and youth?
- D. Of the job description skills listed above (I to III), which do you have and how did you gain that experience (work, education, volunteering)?