

Garden & Nutrition Educator Job Description



About Us

CommunityGrows (CG) co-cultivates healthy youth through growing gardens in low-income, diverse communities. Through outdoor, environmental and nutrition education, we support children and youth, especially those living in public housing in San Francisco, develop the confidence, skills and experience to live a healthy life and become leaders in their communities. Each year we engage over 1,300 kids 5-19 through our garden, cooking and workforce readiness programs.

We are a grassroots organization that has served the community for the last 24 years. Cultivation of healthy youth takes time and we continue to build support and solidarity with deep relationships amongst our community partners. CommunityGrows is committed to diversity and equity. Our values include: co-powerment, restorative justice, social justice, food justice, active listening, leadership building, love, compassion, respect, nature, community, resiliency, and peace. (Learn more about [our tenets and values here](#).)

Our Seed to Mouth environmental and nutrition education program educates students to high academic and social-emotional learning standards. We use hands-on science curriculum and exploration to foster knowledge of, and respect for, the environment, inspire a sense of wonder about the natural world, and encourage healthy eating habits to help young people reach their goals. We integrate our school curriculum into grade-level science standards and support the teachers' classroom curriculum. Our after-school and summer programming is designed in light of out-of-school (OST) time best practices and in consultation with community partners to best meet their learning objectives.

Description

The Educator teaches garden and nutrition education classes for elementary-aged students in San Francisco. They are responsible for planning and teaching 10-12 classes per week, approximately 1-1.5 hours each. It is year-round with benefits, including vacation and sick time.

Successful candidates will have a demonstrable track record of working effectively with youth of color in low-income communities, strong classroom management skills, experience in gardening or urban agriculture, and passion for food, social and environmental justice. The ideal candidate will have a degree in early childhood education, a minimum of 1-year teaching experience, and a minimum 1- year managing a farm, garden or kitchen. The best candidate will have a true love for working with young children.

Responsibilities

Program Delivery (70%)

- Plan lessons and curriculum for gardening and nutrition classes using the Next Generation Science Standards and OST best practices
- During the academic year, teach 10-12 classes each week. During the summer, teach 3-4 classes a week.
- Develop, organize and coordinate at least one schoolwide gardening activity per academic year
- Co-lead field trips to local farms, gardens and other sites

- Support CommunityGrows general activities and operations, such as garden workdays and community events

Garden Maintenance (15%)

- Oversee garden maintenance at sites of service
- Organize & keep track of tools and gardens sheds
- Create garden maintenance schedules as needed
- Coordinate and oversee volunteers

Coordination & Relationship Building (10%)

- Schedule garden class schedules with teachers for the fall and spring semesters
- Collaborate with teachers and partners to create dynamic curriculum that suits different age groups
- Provide program and organizational updates to principal and teachers on a timely basis
- Serve as point of contact to the teachers, principal and parents of the school
- Represent CommunityGrows and advocate for the Garden & Nutrition Program at outreach events in the community

Administration (5%)

- Keep accurate attendance records and evaluations of classes and curriculum taught and share results with staff, teachers and partners
- Input data as needed
- Communicate clearly with all CommunityGrows staff on a weekly basis

Required Qualifications

- At least 1 year teaching experience, especially with youth ages 5-12
- Experience in urban agriculture, gardening and/or food education
- Excellent classroom management skills
- Strong relationship building skills and ability to communicate effectively with teachers
- Significant experience working in multicultural communities of color.
- Strong organizational skills and the ability to work independently and take initiative
- Good writing skills and computer proficiency
- Strong collaboration, mediation, and team-building skills
- Familiarity with theories of environmental justice; knowledge of environmental principles and issues
- Pass a background check and a TB test prior to start date

Desired Qualifications

- BA or equivalent experience in early childhood K-5 education, urban agriculture, science, nutrition and health or similar field
- Knowledge and practice of restorative justice principles
- Demonstrated experience in curriculum development, ideally garden based
- Experience living and/or working in the Western Addition
- Experience supervising and managing volunteers/interns
- Possess a valid CA driver's license
- First aid and CPR certification

Physical Demands

- Able to navigate multiple sets of steps
- Bend, stoop, kneel, sit and/or stand for extended periods of time
- Able to lift up to 50 lbs.

Work Environment

- Must be able to navigate local travel
- Must be able to work outdoors in different and sometimes inclement weather conditions
- Must be able to teach in a garden setting, which may be dusty or dirty, or have slippery surfaces

Hours, Benefits and Compensation:

This is a full-time position. We offer full benefits, including medical, dental, vision and life insurance; 10 holidays per year, paid vacation and sick leave.

Hourly rate, \$21-\$24 an hour, DOE (\$43,000-\$50,000 a year)

Start Date

As early as June 1st, no later than August 1, 2019

Commitment to Diversity

CommunityGrows, a project of Tides Center, is an equal opportunity employer. We strongly encourage and seek applications from women, people of color, including bilingual and bicultural individuals, as well as members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities. Applicants shall not be discriminated against because of race, religion, sex, national origin, ethnicity, age, disability, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity, color, marital status, medical condition (cancer-related) or conditions Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and AIDS-related conditions (ARC). Reasonable accommodation will be made so that qualified disabled applicants may participate in the application process. Please advise in writing of special needs, if any, at the time of application.

To apply, please send resume and cover letter to:

info@communitygrows.org