

Position: Garden & Nutrition Educator - Full Time

Overview:

About Us

CommunityGrows is a relationship-based organization, taking root in the communities we serve and forming partnerships with other neighborhood organizations to provide hands-on, outdoor learning opportunities for youth to practice environmental stewardship, leadership, and essential, healthy life skills. Through hands-on, project-based lessons in gardening and cooking, children gain the knowledge and skills necessary to increase their physical, emotional, and social health. Each year we engage over 1,400 kids aged 5-25 through our garden, cooking and workforce readiness programs.

Our mission is to cultivate healthy youth through growing gardens in low-income, diverse communities. Our vision is that all youth are able to benefit from the joy and healing of nature-based outdoor education, and develop the tools, confidence and resources to navigate and challenge structural injustices. You can learn more about our tenets and values, and the history of our organization, [here](#).

Position Summary

The Garden & Nutrition Educator oversees and teaches CommunityGrows' garden and nutrition education classes for elementary-aged students in San Francisco. They are responsible for planning and teaching 8-12 classes per week, approximately one (1) hour each, engaging teachers and students in garden care, and maintaining the garden spaces of their sites. This work will be split across two school sites, Malcolm X Academy in the Bayview-Hunters Point neighborhood, and John Muir Elementary, in the Western Addition neighborhood.

We are seeking staff members that have a real love of teaching and healthy eating and who want to work creatively as a part of a passionate team. Successful candidates will also have a demonstrable track record of working effectively in diverse, low-income communities. The ideal candidate does not need to have everything listed in this job description, but they are excited and willing to collaborate and learn.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

Environmental Education 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 8-12 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
- Build relationships with teachers and school community

- Create garden class schedules with teachers for the fall and spring semesters
- Provide program and organizational updates to principal and teachers on a timely basis
- Keep accurate attendance records and evaluations of classes and curriculum taught and share results with staff, teachers and partners
- Input data as needed
- Support CommunityGrows general activities and operations, such as garden workdays and community events
- Communicate clearly with all CommunityGrows staff on a weekly basis
- Co-lead field trips to local farms, gardens and other sites

Garden Maintenance (30%)

- Oversee garden maintenance at assigned sites
- Organize & keep track of tools and gardens sheds
- Create garden maintenance schedules as needed
- Coordinate and oversee volunteers
- Assist with garden maintenance at other CommunityGrows sites as assigned

Required Qualifications

- At least (1) year teaching experience, especially with youth ages 5-12
- At least one (1) year experience managing a farm or garden
- Strong knowledge of organic gardening practices
- 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
- Advocate for environmental justice; knowledge of environmental principles and issues
- Pass a background check, TB test, and provide proof of COVID vaccination prior to start date
- Experience supervising and managing volunteers/interns

Desired Qualifications

- BA or equivalent experience in early childhood K-5 education, urban agriculture, science, nutrition and health or other relevant field
- Knowledge and practice of restorative justice principles
- Demonstrated experience in curriculum development, ideally garden based
- Experience supporting program staff
- Experience analyzing and evaluating educational programs
- Experience working or living in Western Addition, Fillmore and/or Bayview-Hunters Point neighborhoods
- Experience supervising and managing volunteers/interns
- Possess a valid CA driver's license

- First aid and CPR certification

Hours, Benefits and Compensation

This is a full-time, hourly position. We offer full benefits, including medical, dental, vision and life insurance; 10 holidays per year, paid vacation and sick leave. Hourly rate is \$21.70.

Application Instructions and Start Date

To apply, please send a resume and cover letter to Vanessa Williams, Director of Programs, at vanessa@communitygrows.org with the SUBJECT: Garden and Nutrition Educator. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

Organizational Relationships

Incumbent will interact on a daily basis with CG staff, contractors, volunteers and interns. Will have significant interaction with school personnel, including principals, teachers and staff. Will also be working episodically with partners and friends of CG, potential and current funders and donors, politicians, audiences at advocacy events, housing development residents and staff, neighbors in the communities we serve and members of the CG Advisory Board.

Physical Demands

Able to sit in front of a computer for up to five hours per day
Able to navigate multiple sets of steps and uneven surfaces
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

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 accommodations 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.