

Slow Food Lake Tahoe Garden Assistant

Job Description - Updated March 2024

About Slow Food Lake Tahoe

The mission of Slow Food Lake Tahoe is to connect our community to the enjoyment of good, clean and fair food by inspiring a self-reliant food culture. We educate the community about growing, preparing and accessing local and sustainable food. Good, clean and fair food for all.

Toward this end, we run the Slow Food Lake Tahoe Food Bank Garden and Truckee Community Garden.

The mission of the Food Bank Garden is to cultivate a community committed to local food production and increased local food security, through education and demonstration of high-elevation gardening techniques. Our objectives are to:

- **Educate** the community on sustainable, high-altitude gardening techniques
- **Encourage** food security + self-reliance by growing fresh fruit, vegetables and herbs
- **Empower** community members to grow their own food
- **Inspire** the spread of more home gardens throughout the local community
- **Provide** fresh, locally grown food to the Sierra Community House for distribution to food insecure neighbors
- **Promote** a beautiful + vibrant space for our community to enjoy

The mission of the Truckee Community Garden is to enable our community to grow their own food to increase local food security, self reliance and community spirit through gardening.

About The Garden Assistant Position

The Garden Assistant position requires a great deal of hard physical work, focus and care. It is also deeply rewarding. You will work under the direction of the Garden Manager.

Duties

Assist the Garden Manager with all aspects of garden operations in a way that fulfills the mission and objectives of the gardens, including:

- Assist with Installation and operation of irrigation systems.
- Assist with repair and oiling of garden beds.
- Seeding, transplanting, thinning, and fertilizing seedlings.
- Cultivation and weeding.
- Turning, watering and sifting compost.
- Harvesting, washing, weighing, and packing of produce for Sierra Community House or other organization partners.
- Assist with staffing of Garden events ie: Grow Your Own and the Edible Garden Tour
- Assist Garden Manager with direction and oversight of garden volunteers
- Assist Garden Manager with classes for local schools and camps to educate children about local food and growing practices
- Assist with the Disabled Adults garden days
- Set up and staff the Slow Food Lake Tahoe compost collection booth at the Tuesday Truckee Farmers Market
- Prior to special event, GA will hang event flyers at specific locations around town

Physical Requirements

- Work in the garden requires a great deal of physical activity. The physical requirements include the ability to safely do the following:
 - Lift up to 50 pounds (wheelbarrow, bags of soil and amend, carry farmers market boxes, turning compost, etc)
 - Stoop and bend over (weed beds, harvesting produce, install irrigation, etc)
 - Climb on ladders
 - Use power tools
 - Work in inclement weather conditions as Truckee summers can be unpredictable

Knowledge and Skills the Garden Assistant May Acquire

- Small scale organic vegetable production techniques including:
 - Soil health
 - Irrigation systems planning, implementation, and maintenance
 - Direct seeding and transplanting practices
 - Pest management
 - Harvest and post-harvest techniques
 - Prep and processing techniques for weekly produce delivery and distribution.
- Experience operating and maintaining tools and equipment.
- Management and leadership experience working with diverse populations.
- Experience managing groups of volunteers and classrooms.
- Exposure to the operations of a non-profit, community-based organization.
- Mentorship from the The Garden Manager

Job Structure, Pay, & Benefits

- The Garden Assistant is hired as a seasonal employee of Slow Food Lake Tahoe
- Garden Season: mid-May to mid-October
 - Due to weather & availability the specific dates are flexible
 - Time Commitment: roughly 15-20 hours per week
 - Pay Rate: 20/hour
- Benefits include:
 - Partial flexible and remote working hours
 - All California State and Federal employee benefit & reimbursement requirements, including:
 - Paid sick leave
 - Workers' compensation insurance
 - Unemployment insurance
 - Social security benefits
 - Necessary business related expense reimbursement (for phone bills, internet access, and computer use) up to \$100
 - Mileage reimbursement for off-site work related travel (\$0.67/mile in 2024)

2024 Garden Season Schedule

All dates and times are subject to change based on weather

Mondays

- Harvest Mondays
 - 8:00 am to 1:00 pm
 - Location: SFLT Gardens
 - 5 hrs

Tuesdays, Thursdays

- 7:00 am - 12:00 pm compost collection at the Farmers Market
- 5 hrs

Wednesdays

- Workday Wednesdays
 - 8:00 am to 1:00 pm
 - Location: SFLT Gardens
 - 5 hrs

Saturdays

- Occasional Community Dig-Ins scheduled
 - 8:30 am to 2:00 pm
 - Location: SFLT Gardens
 - 5.5 hrs

Grow Your Own, Truckee Event - scheduled for June 2nd

Edible Garden Tour - scheduled for Aug 3rd

* Weekly schedule is approximate. Monday, Tuesday & Wednesdays are firm hours and flex hours are assigned in collaboration with the Garden Manager and your schedule.