



Position: Food & Garden Educator

Overview:

About Us

CommunityGrows (CG) 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 youth 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

Reporting to the Deputy Director, the Food & Garden Educator manages and teaches CommunityGrows' garden and nutrition education classes for elementary-aged students in San Francisco. They are responsible for planning and teaching 4 classes per week, year round for approximately one (1) hour each, engaging teachers and students in garden care, maintenance, and tasting classes. The educator will also maintain the garden spaces of their assigned sites. This work will be located mainly in the Central Richmond neighborhood. CommunityGrows also has site locations in the Fillmore, Haight-Ashbury, and Mission neighborhoods where collaborations between programs happen throughout the year.

We are seeking staff members that have a real love of teaching and nutritious eating and who want to work creatively as a part of a small and dynamic team. Successful candidates will also have a demonstrable track record of working effectively with youth in low-income communities, strong classroom management skills, and experience in gardening or urban agriculture. They have a true love for working with young children and a passion for environmental and food justice. They understand that outdoor-based education is a source of joy and healing. *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

- Plan lessons and curriculum for gardening and seed to mouth classes, using the Next Generation Science Standards and Out of School Time (OST) best practices
- During the academic year, teach 4 classes each week. During the summer, teach up to 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
- Support CommunityGrows general activities and operations, such as garden workdays and community events
- Communicate regularly and clearly with all CG staff and attend recurring weekly meetings
- Co-lead field trips to local farms, gardens and other sites

Garden Maintenance

- Oversee garden maintenance at assigned sites (examples include: irrigation maintenance, weeding, pruning, harvesting, managing compost system, greenhouse maintenance)
- 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

Partnership Development and Collaboration

- Serve as an effective spokesperson for CG representing the organization's values to all partners and the general public
- Attend quarterly fundraisers and community events which occur an average of four (4) times a year on the weekend

Required Qualifications

- At least (1) year teaching experience, preferably with youth ages 5-12
- At least one (1) year experience managing a farm or garden
- Excellent classroom management skills
- Strong relationship building skills and ability to communicate effectively with teachers
- Extensive experience working in both multicultural communities of color and low income communities

- 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

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, and/or Fillmore neighborhoods
- Experience supervising and managing volunteers/interns
- Possess a valid CA driver's license
- First aid and CPR certification
- Experience using Google Suites, Slack, and DCYF CMS
- Experience supervising and managing volunteers/interns
- Strong knowledge of organic gardening practices

Hours, Benefits and Compensation

This is a regular, hourly, part-time (20 hrs), grant funded position. We offer Pro rated benefits, including medical, dental, vision and life insurance; 13 holidays per year, 10 vacation days and 12 wellness days.

Hourly rate is \$23.00 - \$26.00, with consideration given to experience and qualifications.

Application Instructions and Start Date

To apply, please fill out the application at <https://forms.gle/kBofgAFasrGN7Q99A>. **Application Deadline: Priority will be given to applications received by September 14th, before 5pm PST. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the role is filled.**

Organizational Relationships

Incumbents 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

Disclaimer

The above job description is not intended to be an all-inclusive list of duties and standards of the position. The Food & Garden Educator may be assigned additional duties to ensure the success of this role.

Due to the nature of this role, the selected candidate will be required to complete a background check after receiving a conditional offer of employment.

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.