

# **GARDEN EDUCATOR NORTH COUNTY PART TIME POSITION**



## **Position Overview**

The Garden Educator (GE) will be an integral part of the garden experience for both students and teachers as part of the s'Cool Gardens program. GEs will help teachers select and implement standards based garden curriculum. The GE will help develop teamwork, responsibility, and organization with groups of students through garden activities and maintenance. The GE communicates with teaching staff and SG Staff on a weekly basis and with the principal and schools' garden community regularly throughout the year. Time would be divided between responsibilities at specific school sites and SG Program administration. This position would initially be funded through the s'Cool Garden program, but will transition to the school through a variety of possible funding strategies.

## **Responsibilities**

### **Garden Maintenance**

- ❖ Assist Installation Coordinator with garden installation or enhancement (when support of existing garden model is called for);
- ❖ Maintain the vitality, health and beauty of the garden, compost and irrigation systems;
- ❖ Monitor garden use, educate students on use/safety, and care of all garden tools; and
- ❖ Train school garden community, including teachers and volunteers on how to care for, utilize, and maintain the garden;

### **Garden Based Curriculum**

- ❖ Help teachers link their standards-based curriculum to the garden utilizing LifeLab materials as the core curriculum and supplementing as needed;
- ❖ Teach and supervise students in garden (up to 30 students with 1 other adult); and
- ❖ Coordinate informal education opportunities including: assemblies that highlight the project, noontime work days in the garden with snacking/simple cooking, parent education, garden work days, field trips, and cooking events.

### **General Administration**

- ❖ Support school garden team in the application phase;
- ❖ Ensure school garden benchmarks are being met according to timeline;
- ❖ Coordinate sustainability plan with school and surrounding community, including:
  - Outreach to surrounding community to create garden support team.
  - Funding that may include grant writing and other fund raising to secure GE position
  - Garden maintenance. That may include sourcing materials and expertise from local businesses and organizations.
  - Planning for a smooth transition when the school community takes over management of the garden and teachers utilize the garden independently;
- ❖ Participate in GE learning community;
- ❖ Mentor new GEs and share best practices;
- ❖ Supervise volunteers;

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- ❖ Serve as a liaison between the garden and local farmers, other schools, surrounding community and s'Cool Gardens Program;
- ❖ Prepare all documentation and maintain required records;
- ❖ Assist in the planning and implementation of evaluations;
- ❖ Use and possibly add to on-line resources; and
- ❖ Perform other related duties as assigned.

## Qualifications

- ❖ Strong organic gardening, organic horticulture, or permaculture experience, or equivalent. Ability to care for a diverse array of plantings including annuals and perennials, food and native plants;
- ❖ Excellent rapport with children; experience with primary school setting, including a familiarity with curricular standards, and classroom activities. Ability to supervise and engage small and large groups of elementary students;
- ❖ Excellent written & oral communication skills (Spanish language skills & grant writing a plus);
- ❖ Self-starter and motivated to design and implement innovative garden programs;
- ❖ Highly organized and able to manage multiple responsibilities;
- ❖ Comfortable working from multiple locations & traveling between job sites (no central office);
- ❖ Able to provide own transportation within Santa Barbara County;
- ❖ Proficient in Microsoft Office, email and internet (and daily access to email);
- ❖ Ability to attend regular staff meetings;
- ❖ Ability to commit about 19.5 hours/wk, occasionally on weekends for 2 school years;
- ❖ Must be in good physical health – comfortable with tools such as shovel and wheel-barrel. Able to do intense physical work (moving wheel-barrels, digging, carrying heavy materials, tilling, etc.);
- ❖ Excellent interpersonal skills; ability to work independently and in groups; able to work with people of diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds;
- ❖ Experience managing a budget.

**Compensation:** \$13.50-14.50 per hour depending on experience. Maximum 19.5 hrs/week. No benefits. Must pass TB test and be fingerprinted before beginning work. Employed by SBCC as a s'Cool Gardens staff member with intention of phasing into a direct hire by the school(s).

**To apply,** email a cover letter, resume and two professional job references to Alexis Schoppe at [scoolgardens@gmail.com](mailto:scoolgardens@gmail.com). Make sure to indicate in the cover letter which region you are applying for, north county (Lompoc/Guadalupe) or south county (Santa Barbara/Carpentaria).

For each reference please provide their name, phone number, email, where you worked with them, and the number of years you've known them.