



The School Garden Network of Sonoma County

Job Description – Project Manager for School Garden Apprenticeship

The School Garden Network of Sonoma County (SGN) has diligently served school gardens for 15 years by providing direct funding and mentorship to garden and nutrition educators, hosting and facilitating workshops, sharing resources, and demonstrating the immense value of garden based learning to students, schools and local communities. The School Garden Apprenticeship, now in its 3rd year, has the potential to be a very dynamic and impactful program that uses school gardens as the framework for training and mentoring high school youth.

PROJECT MANAGER POSITION OVERVIEW:

We are seeking an organized and motivated person with at least 2 years of experience managing a garden using chemical free & low intensive techniques. This position requires physical labor and the ability to work a full day outside in the heat, as well as lifting up to 50 pounds. Drip irrigation experience is required, as this Project Manager will also be responsible for designing and installing drip irrigation systems in school gardens.

Great communication skills and administrative computer proficiency is also essential in this position, as is a passion for school gardens and the mission of SGN. Experience working with teens is a plus, while experience managing a small team is a must!

This position will report to the Program Director and will be responsible for managing the recruitment, training and ongoing support to a group of 8-10 teen School Garden Apprentices.

The Project Manager will be responsible for selecting the Apprentices, designing the Apprenticeship trainings, scheduling the farm fieldtrips and scheduling the workdays at various school gardens throughout the summer. Tasks will also include taking photos and sending written updates for SGN social media and website.

This part-time contract position from April to mid Aug 2018 for 280 hours at \$26 per hour.

MISSION & VISION OF THE SCHOOL GARDEN APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

The mission of the School Garden Apprenticeship is to provide job preparedness skills for high school teens with the long term goal that participants will receive enough training and hands-on experience that it could inspire a career path linked to sustainable agriculture and eventually a viable pathway for employment. By promoting opportunities for teens to develop a skill set that inspires a connection to place and the natural cycles of the seasons, we believe this Apprenticeship will cultivate leadership, confidence and resilience in our youth.

The School Garden Apprenticeship weaves together on-the-job training in gardening and irrigation installation to high school teens, with individual and group development projects that may extend to the larger community. SGN will offer a comprehensive introduction to gardening fundamentals that focus on seasonal tasks and projects, plants & propagation, garden design & infrastructure building, and irrigation design and installation. Exploring this information through the lens of school gardens offer a unique perspective with regards to setting, scale and function. In conjunction with school worksites, we will also integrate field trips to local farms and educational gardens as an opportunity to observe design, infrastructure and production at several scales and in various landscapes; thereby illustrating and emphasizing the importance of resourcefulness and adaptability for the resilient grower.

The School Garden Apprenticeship program directly supports and complements our Water Wise program, both in partnership with Harmony Farm Supply. Thanks to the expertise of irrigation specialists at Harmony Farm Supply we can offer eligible schools free irrigation design. This partnership also provides special pricing for school gardens on irrigation materials so that this funding goes a long way in the garden. Upgrading to an automated irrigation system helps prevent garden program staff burnout by freeing them from countless hours of hand watering, as well as encouraging water conservation on school campus.

School Garden Apprenticeship Program Objectives:

1. Provide high school youth with meaningful employment that builds their job readiness capacity
2. Skill building with practical hands-on training in garden maintenance with emphasis on drip irrigation design and installation
3. Serve the needs of school gardens for much needed summer maintenance
4. Provide a pathway from the early experiences in school garden programs to degree programs in agriculture
5. Facilitate leadership opportunities for youth

POSITION WILL BEGIN APRIL 2018.

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 9, 2018 AT 12 NOON.

ALL QUESTIONS TO SUE: info@schoolgardens.org

RESUMES TO SUE: schoolgardenapprenticeship@gmail.com