

Job Opportunity

6-25-21 Garden Educator, Part-Time, Limited-Term, Garden School Foundation, Los Angeles, 7-25-21 deadline

Job Title

Part-Time, Limited-Term Garden Educator

Agency

Garden School Foundation

Location

Los Angeles (Mid-City and Mar Vista)

Pay Rate

\$20-\$22/hour

Responsibilities

ABOUT GARDEN SCHOOL FOUNDATION:

Garden School Foundation provides in-depth garden-based education to youth at Title I schools in Los Angeles, strengthening connections between food justice, environmental stewardship, and community health. By using the full transformative potential of school gardens as teaching sites, we nurture a healthy and mindful generation of children that care for their bodies, their communities, and the earth. We currently serve eight Title I elementary schools, reaching over 3,000 students and their families each year.

POSITION SUMMARY:

The Part-time (2.5 days/week, approximately 20 hours per week), Limited-term Garden Educator will conduct GSF's Seed-to-Table education program at two of our elementary schools, Rockdale Visual and Performing Arts Magnet (1303 Yosemite Drive, Eagle Rock) and Wilshire Crest Elementary (5241 W Olympic Blvd, Mid City/Mid Wilshire). This is a temporary, hourly position and the dates of engagement are August 15 - December 3, 2021. Duties include: conduct garden based science and nutritional cooking classes in the outdoor classroom and indoor cooking classroom where applicable, following GSF's curriculum; cultivate a positive working relationship with our schools; work with interns and volunteers in day-to-day operations; co-organize and co-lead our Fall Community Garden Days at each site (up to two workdays at each site, for a possible total of four after-school or Saturday workdays); maintain the outdoor gardens and indoor cooking classroom and their contents; and other special assignments as needed. The Part-Time Garden Educator will work directly with the Programs Manager, school staff, Executive Director, and fellow GSF staff and volunteers.

Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

Core Teaching, September - December 3

- Plan and implement garden and cooking classes (currently 1 day/week at each site; Tuesdays at Rockdale and Wednesdays at Wilshire Crest) in the garden classroom using our standards-aligned, K-5th Seed to Table curriculum.
- Purchase (for reimbursement), prepare, and maintain all teaching and cooking supplies (note: Garden Educators purchase cooking and some other supplies with their own funds and are then reimbursed; should this present an undue hardship, other arrangements can be considered).
- Work with school leadership, staff, and classroom teachers to schedule the rotation of classes and align GSF lessons with classroom teachers' instructional priorities whenever possible.
- Conduct GSF's pre- program surveys for Kindergarten and 4th grade students
- Co-organize and co-lead with the school, GSF Programs Manager, and school site garden team the Fall Community Garden Days (up to 2 work days per site).

Cultivate School Relationship

- Serve as the GSF representative to Rockdale and Wilshire Crest, building a strong and mutually beneficial relationship between GSF and the school; attend teacher PD meetings, PTA meetings, Back-to-School night, and other special school events; share and promote GSF's program and events within the school community.
- Work with garden interns to develop their teaching and gardening skills.
- Ongoing, regular communication with school staff regarding updates, issues or problems.

Garden and Facilities Maintenance

- Maintain the gardens, sheds, and cooking classrooms at both Rockdale and Wilshire Crest, ensuring that our facilities are clean, safe, and welcoming.
- Keep all classroom and teaching supplies stocked and accounted for, stored neatly, and in proper working order; alert GSF to any facilities or maintenance issues.

Other

- Conduct tours of the gardens to a diverse array of visitors, as needed.
- Help coordinate photo documentation of classes and secure photo permissions, as needed.
- Assist with additional fundraising, partner, and volunteer events at the garden, as needed.
- Attend monthly GSF staff meetings as well as occasional training and professional events, as needed.
- Liaise with partner organizations, as needed.

Desired Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

The ideal candidate has:

- 3+ years teaching experience in an outdoor setting.
- Experience with project-based learning.
- Knowledge of organic gardening, environmental science, and California's growing seasons.
- Basic knowledge of raw cooking and food preparation.
- Capacity to stoop, bend, lift, reach, stand, squat, kneel, speak and listen, as well as lift at least 50 lbs.
- Capacity to perform garden maintenance (weed, trim, water, mulch, compost, plant, harvest, etc.) in an exposed, outdoor setting.
- Experience working with and/or managing volunteers and interns.
- Proficiency in Spanish or comfort incorporating Spanish vocab into lessons.
- A passion for elementary students and competency working with students and families from varying economic and cultural backgrounds.
- Strong experience in collaboration and site coordination.
- Ability to work flexibly, to multitask, and to problem solve independently within a dynamic public school environment.
- An unyieldingly positive attitude.

Application Mode

To apply, please send a brief cover letter, resume, and three references to our Programs Manager Rachel Black, rachel@gardenschoolfoundation.org and Elizabeth Hall, Outreach and Development, elizabeth@gardenschoolfoundation.org. Please indicate "Part-time, Limited-Term Garden Educator" in the subject heading of your email. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

TERMS AND COMPENSATION:

This is a part-time, temporary, hourly position, at 20 hours/week, plus additional hours for Community Garden Days. The dates of engagement are August 15 - December 3, 2021. Compensation based on experience (range is \$20-\$22/hour) and includes paid sick time. Training for this position would ideally begin mid-August 2021 and teaching duties would begin in early September 2021. Background checks and TB testing are required by LAUSD; regular Covid-19 testing may also be required. Engagement for this position does not guarantee future employment opportunities with GSF.

Application Deadline: 7-25-21

Contact for further information: elizabeth@gardenschoolfoundation.org