



Position Available: Education Assistant

Organization Description

Founded in 1971, the Washington Youth Garden at the U.S. National Arboretum provides a unique year-round environmental science and food education program for youth and families. Using the garden cycle as a tool, the mission of the Washington Youth Garden at the U.S. National Arboretum is to inspire children and families to engage in self-discovery, explore relationships with food and the natural world, and contribute to the health and well-being of their communities. WYG is a project of the Friends of the National Arboretum (FONA), a small non-profit organization located on the grounds of the U.S. National Arboretum, dedicated to enhancing, through private and public sector resources, support for the educational and research programs of the U.S. National Arboretum.

Position and Program Description

This is a full-time professional position that will support the Washington Youth Garden's Education Coordinator and other WYG staff in the execution and advancement of WYG's Garden Science program. The Washington Youth Garden's *Garden Science* program partners with local elementary schools to provide environmental science and nutrition education. With an interactive garden-based curriculum, WYG educators provide eight weeks of classroom based lessons at each participating school for third and fourth grade classes. In the spring, the WYG works with the school community to design and install an edible schoolyard garden. In May, each participating class visits the Washington Youth Garden at the U.S. National Arboretum for a full day of outdoor educational programming.

Responsibilities

The primary responsibilities will include:

- Facilitation of the eight-week classroom component;
- Coordination and facilitation of garden visits and instruction;
- School garden installations, education and management; and
- Curriculum development, program material creation and adaptation.

Other responsibilities will include, but are not exclusive to:

- Coordinating and executing school garden planting days;
- Tracking assessments and program evaluations;
- Website and blog updates;
- Summer education program support; and
- WYG garden support.

Qualifications

A degree in a related field (Education, Environmental Science, Horticulture) or comparable experience. Curriculum development experience, knowledge of pedagogical philosophies and general knowledge, interest and experience in vegetable gardening and youth gardening movement. Experience working in and out of the classroom with diverse populations, particularly urban elementary school aged children, is a must. Possess strong communication, organization and management skills, and comfort with public speaking. First Aid/CPR certification is a plus. Must be able to work outdoors in various weather conditions and lift 50 lbs.

Time Commitment

Full time position - forty hours a week.

Compensation

Hourly wage commensurate with experience.

To Apply

Please send a resume, cover letter, and three references to Kacie Warner at Kwarner@washingtoneyouthgarden.org by January 19, 2011. Email is preferred, mailing address is below. Please indicate "Education Assistant" in the subject line.

Washington Youth Garden

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