

Elementary School Garden Educator

Prepared by DC Greens

Job Description

The Garden Educator is a part-time position that offers critical support to teachers and students to ensure that a school can maximize the educational potential of the garden. The Garden Educator leads garden science and nutrition education classes, while providing professional development training for teachers in the process. The Garden Educator acts as a resource for teachers as they plan their own cross-curricular lessons in the outdoor classroom, and models skills that teachers need to feel comfortable using the garden to teach science standards.

The Educator:

- Facilitates garden science classes, incorporating both environmental science and nutrition education as they relate to the garden;
- Works closely with classroom teachers to develop lessons that support classroom teaching in a range of curriculum areas (science, social studies, mathematics, language arts, etc.)
- Oversees and coordinates students' hands-on experiences in the garden (planting, tending, harvesting and cooking);
- Builds involvement in and commitment to the school garden within the school community, including teachers, administrators, students, parents and community volunteers;
- Builds capacity within the school by co-teaching with classroom teachers, and developing teacher skills in outdoor classroom management techniques;
- Maintains the garden, coordinating volunteers and working with DC Greens to secure all needed supplies;
- Leads a group of students in garden-related action projects through after-school programming.

Job Responsibilities:

- Facilitate 3-4 garden-based education classes per day, two days each week;
- Manage the school garden, plan and prepare for garden work activities, manage planting schedule, ensure availability of tools and other necessary materials;
- Maintain open garden time schedule for teachers;

- Attend school wide staff meetings;
- Lead after-school garden club;
- Coordinate community garden events to bring students, families, teachers and community members together;
- Coordinate school-wide garden events, in which students prepare and serve garden-grown salad for the entire school at lunch;
- Act as in-school liaison for the Chefs Move to Schools Program, working closely with adopting chef on aligning garden activities and lessons with chef demos;
- Attend grade level meetings on a monthly basis for collaborations and core curriculum alignment;
- Monitor, document and report on all activities and extent of student and teacher participation;
- Maintain school garden blog

Desired Skills and Experience:

- At least 2-3 years of facilitation or teaching experience with youth aged 5-12 (outdoor group management experience preferred);
- Knowledge and skills in small-scale organic food production or home gardening;
- Knowledge of or interest in topics including urban gardening, botany, environmental science, health and nutrition, food systems, food access;
- Demonstrated ability to work with diverse populations including youth and adults;
- Strong oral and written communication skills, including public speaking skills;
- Ability to work independently and be flexible;
- Computer skills and project management skills.