



900-Hour UCC AmeriCorps Youth Educator

Organization Description

Wasatch Community Gardens (WCG) is a community-based nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that envisions an inclusive, robust and vibrant community that is nourished by healthy and affordable food. Wasatch Community Gardens has served Wasatch Front residents since 1989 with the belief that the quality of a community is directly related to the quality of its food. We offer garden space, educational programs, and community events to empower people to grow, harvest, prepare, and eat fresh, healthy, organic food. We execute our mission through four main programs: Community Gardens, Youth & School Gardens, Community Education, and Farm-based Job Training.

Job Summary

The WCG Youth & School Garden Program offers young learners the opportunity to connect with nature and develop the awareness, knowledge, and skills they need to grow and eat healthy, local food. Our purpose is to cultivate curiosity and food literacy with young learners and inspire them to make healthy choices for themselves, their community, and the environment. The program works with youth and their families through an after-school program, summer camps, garden field trips, school gardens.

The UCC AmeriCorps Youth Educator is responsible for teaching the WCG summer camps, field trips, and group visits. The Youth Educator will also assist in maintaining the two teaching gardens, support the school garden program, help facilitate volunteer groups, and assist at WCG special events.

This position requires strong leadership skills, self-motivation, the ability to work as part of a team, and a passion for teaching youth to grow and eat healthy, organic, local food. Through this position, the UCC AmeriCorps members will have the opportunity to learn about outdoor education, sustainable food production, and professional non-profit work through hands-on experience.

Key Responsibilities

Education – 75%

- Teach summer camps, field trips, and youth group visits in the gardens
- Provide a safe, active, and engaging environment for diverse youth participants
- Document outcomes of gardening lessons and review with Youth Program Director
- Collaborate on curriculum development for garden-based classes
- Work with a variety of partner agencies, local community groups, and service-learning groups on garden and education projects

Gardening – 15%

- Assist in maintaining two teaching gardens using sustainable and organic practices
- Assist in maintaining teaching gardens as outdoor classrooms that are safe, fun, and welcoming
- Harvest, record, preserve, and distribute produce from the teaching gardens
- Help facilitate garden volunteer groups, garden crews, and staff workdays

Additional Responsibilities – 10%

- Participate in staff meetings, work days, and trainings
- Assist with Wasatch Community Gardens community events
- Attend agriculture, education, and community engagement trainings with other youth educators and Youth Program Director
- Propose and complete an independent project
- Collaborate with other WCG programs – Community Education; Community Gardens; Farm-based Job Training; Volunteers and Outreach; Development

Qualifications



AmeriCorps Qualifications

Must be a US Citizen or Permanent Resident and eligible to serve an AmeriCorps State/National term. Must be at least age 18 by start of their term and have a high school diploma or equivalent. Must undergo and pass a National Criminal History Check. **Must commit to completing their Term of Service.**

Required Experience

- Experience working with youth ages 4-12, particularly in an outdoor setting
- Basic knowledge of sustainable, organic gardening OR strong desire to learn
- Basic knowledge of nutrition and cooking skills OR strong desire to learn
- Organized, motivated, and able to work independently and as part of a group
- Ability to build relationships with youth from diverse ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds
- Desire to work outdoors in variable weather conditions
- Ability to lift and move 25 pounds, stand for extended periods of time, walk 2 miles
- Excellent communication skills
- Positive and flexible attitude, ability to solve problems creatively

Other Preferred Experience

- Bachelor's degree in related field (education, social work, environmental studies, etc.)
- Familiarity with environmental and/or experiential education methods
- Prior experience with gardening or farming
- Experience with tools used in basic carpentry, landscaping, and garden work
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite, comfortable using Gmail and Google Drive

Schedule

Seven month, 900-hour position, averaging 40 hours/week – typical schedule Monday-Friday, 8:00am-4:00pm with some evenings and weekends.

Job begins Monday, April 6, 2020 and ends Friday, October 30, 2020.

Compensation

This is an individual placement position through the Utah State University, Utah Conservation Corps (USU-UCC), AmeriCorps Program. USU-UCC will provide the selected individuals with a \$7,408 living allowance distributed bi-monthly, an educational award of \$3,047.5 (upon completion of entire service term), an option to purchase health insurance, child care (for qualified members), and student loan deferment during service. There is also the option of receiving some USU university credit hours.

Additional benefits of this position include holidays off and access to fresh garden produce.

To apply

Send cover letter; resume; names, titles, and phone numbers of two professional references to openings@wasatchgardens.org by 9 am, Monday, March 9, 2020. Please put "900 hour UCC AmeriCorps Youth Educator" in the subject line. Applications received prior to February 10, 2020 will receive priority consideration. **Applications without a cover letter will not be considered.**

People of color, women, veterans, and LGBTQ candidates are strongly encouraged to apply. WCG is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate in its employment decisions on the basis of race, religion, gender, age, national origin, mental or physical disabilities, sexual orientation, or any other similarly protected status.