



900-Hour UCC AmeriCorps Garden Coordinator Youth & School Garden Program

Organization and Job Description

Founded in 1989, Wasatch Community Gardens (WCG) is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization that works to empower people to grow and eat healthy, organic, local food. WCG achieves its mission by providing access to land, educational opportunities, job training, and community events.

The WCG Youth & School Garden Program works to develop the awareness, knowledge, and skills youth need to grow and eat healthy, local food through providing educational opportunities and materials (remotely in 2021). Our purpose is to engage youth communities through gardening and local food, cultivate curiosity and food literacy with young learners, and inspire them to make healthy choices for themselves, their community, and the environment. Our team values continued learning, community-building through food, and having fun and seeks applicants who are invested in these goals.

The UCC AmeriCorps Garden Coordinator is primarily responsible for (1) growing fruits/vegetables to be distributed through our educational programs and (2) maintaining our garden sites using organic practices. The Garden Coordinator will also assist in developing and assembling materials for remote youth garden education programs, work with community partners, and assist at WCG events.

This position requires knowledge of organic fruit/vegetable growing practices, the ability to work as part of a team, and a passion for teaching youth and their families to grow and eat healthy, organic, local food. Through this position, the UCC AmeriCorps member will have the opportunity to learn about sustainable food production, outdoor education, community engagement, and non-profit work through hands-on experience and training.

Primary Responsibilities

Gardening – 80%

- Maintain multiple fruit/vegetable production garden sites using sustainable and organic practices
- Harvest, record, and distribute produce from gardens following food safety protocols
- Facilitate and lead garden volunteer groups and staff workdays
- Collaborate with Job Training Farm to coordinate fruit/vegetable production and harvesting for educational program use
- Collaborate with Community Education Director and Community Gardens team to maintain shared areas and coordinate fruit/vegetable production and distribution

Education – 10%

- Develop and assemble content for remote gardening and environmental education programs
- Document and review outcomes of educational programs
- Work with partner agencies and service-learning groups on garden and educational projects

Additional Responsibilities – 10%

- Participate in staff meetings, work days, and trainings
- Assist with Wasatch Community Gardens' community events
- Propose and complete an independent "AmeriCorps Impact Project"
- Collaborate with other WCG programs – Community Education; Community Gardens; Job Training Farm; Volunteers; Outreach/Marketing; Development/Fundraising
- Other duties as assigned



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

- Demonstrated experience in gardening or farming using organic methods
- Basic knowledge of post-harvest produce handling and food safety practices
- Desire to work outdoors in variable weather conditions
- Physical ability to lift and move 50 pounds, stand for extended periods of time
- Comfort using landscaping, gardening, and basic carpentry tools or desire to learn
- Commitment to learning about and practicing anti-racism, inclusion, and equity in food justice
- Positive and flexible attitude, ability to solve problems creatively, willingness to ask for help

Other Preferred Experience

- Fluency in a language other than English, particularly Spanish
- Experience working with youth or developing educational lesson plans or desire to learn
- Basic knowledge of nutrition and cooking skills or desire to learn
- Comfortable using Gmail, Google Drive, Microsoft Office

Schedule

900-hour position averaging 24 hours/week from March-November. Schedule is somewhat flexible and will vary throughout the growing season. Typical schedule will be Monday: 8:00am-4:00pm, Tuesday-Friday: 8:00-12:00 with occasional afternoons or weekends. Questions about schedule are welcome.

Job begins Monday, March 1, 2021 and ends Friday, November 19, 2021

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 \$7,559 living allowance distributed bi-monthly, an educational award of \$ 3,097.50 (upon completion of service term), student loan deferment during service, and optional USU university credit hours. Additional benefits of this position include professional development, holidays off, and fresh produce.

To apply

Send the following materials to openings@wasatchgardens.org by 9:00 am, Monday, February 1:

- Resume
- Names, titles, and contact information of two professional references
- Short response (no more than 1 page total) to the following questions
 1. Why are you interested in this position?
 2. What strengths will you bring to our team?
 3. What is an example of a time when you faced a challenge and how did you overcome it?

Please put "UCC AmeriCorps – Garden Coordinator" in the subject line of your email. **Note that applications without responses to the questions above will not be considered.**

Reach out to Maria Schwarz, the Youth & School Garden Program Director, with any questions you have about this position or the application process. maria@wasatchgardens.org

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.