



Gardening Education Assistant AmeriCorps (450 Hour) Description

Organization and Program 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, preserve, and prepare fresh, healthy food. We execute our mission through five main programs: Community Garden, Youth Garden, School Garden, Community Education, and the Green Team Farm.

Overview

This AmeriCorps position is an exciting opportunity to assist the WCG Community Education Director in facilitating organic gardening workshops and organizational events. The 450 Hour AmeriCorps with WCG will develop professional non-profit career experience, work with a population of low-income individuals with severe mental illness, attend 35+ educational workshops. Benefits include receiving fresh garden produce throughout the growing season, obtaining hands-on experience with growing organic food in our teaching gardens, and spending time outdoors in our beautiful demo and teaching gardens.

Primary Responsibilities:

Education - 50%

Assist with preparation, set-up and tear-down for ~35 adult education workshops and 6 community gardener mini-workshops. Activities include preparing all materials for class, taking attendance, assisting instructor(s) during class as needed, putting away all materials after class, and entering data following each class. Includes approximately 75 hours' worth of organic gardening education.

Gardening – 15%

Assist with maintaining demo and teaching gardens using sustainable and organic practices. Activities include planting, watering, weeding, trellising, fertilizing, harvesting, clearing spent crops, etc. in variable weather conditions.

Assist with maintaining seedlings in greenhouse to include seed starting, soil blocking, watering, hardening off, and keeping the greenhouse a safe, organized, and clean environment

Farm Fresh Program Support – 15%

Provide support to Education Director with approximately 15 smoothie/snack groups and pop-up markets at a supportive housing unit for individuals with severe mental illness. Activities include procuring produce from our farm, preparing produce for smoothies/snacks in housing unit's commercial kitchen, serving snacks to and engaging with clients, cleaning kitchen, and assisting with field trips for clients to our farm and garden.

Additional Responsibilities– 15%

Assist with WCG events:

- Spring Plant Sale Fundraiser (all day Friday, May 8, 2020 and Saturday, May 9, 2020)
- Tomato Sandwich Party (all day Saturday, September 5, 2020)

Attend trainings with other WCG AmeriCorps and staff

Attend regular check-ins with Education Director as well as occasional event-planning meetings and twice-monthly staff meetings

Provide teaching evaluations on two or more workshops

Hours:

10 month, 450-hour position averaging 12 hours/week.

(January 27, 2020 through October 24, 2020)

Wednesday through Saturday schedule, evening availability required.

Schedule varies month-to-month, ~10 hrs/week in slower gardening months to ~16+ hrs/week in May and June.

Compensation: This is an individual placement position through the Utah State University Utah Conservation Corps Program, which will provide the selected individual(s) with:

- An educational award of \$1612.43 upon successful completion of AmeriCorps service hours
- A living allowance stipend of \$3704 paid in even disbursements (twice monthly) throughout terms of service
- Childcare, for qualified members
- Federal student loan forbearance and interest accrual during term
- Workers Compensation

Required Qualifications:

- Strong desire to learn about organic vegetable gardening (novices welcome!)
- Ability to work some weeknights and many Saturdays (Wed-Sat schedule)
- Ability to perform physical garden work in variable weather conditions: lift and move 50 lbs., stand and walk for extended periods of time
- Organized, motivated, and able to work independently and as part of a group
- Positive and flexible attitude; ability to solve problems creatively
- Competence with Microsoft Word, Excel, Gmail, Google Docs and Google Sheets
- Reliable transportation to/from farm and garden, office, supportive housing unit, and occasional garden site visits
- Must be a US Citizen or Permanent Resident and eligible to serve and AmeriCorps State/National term
- Must be at least 18 by the start of the term and have a high school diploma or equivalent
- Must undergo and pass a National Criminal History Check
- Must commit to completing the term of service

Other Preferred Qualifications/Experience:

- Prior experience working with diverse and vulnerable populations
- Basic organic gardening or farming skills
- Data entry experience preferred
- Familiarity with environmental and/or experiential education methods
- Experience with tools used in basic landscaping and garden work
- Desire to learn to teach organic gardening to adults

To Apply

Send cover letter, resume, and the names, titles and phone numbers of two professional references to openings@wasatchgardens.org by 9 am on January 10, 2020. Please put **"Gardening Education Assistant"** in the subject line. Applications received prior to December 20, 2019 will receive priority consideration. Applications without a cover letter will not be considered. Note: Applicant must submit to and clear a background check prior to start.

People of color, people with disabilities, veterans, and LGBTQ candidates are strongly encouraged to apply. WCG is committed to providing equal employment opportunities for all employees and applicants for employment based on individual qualifications and without regard to race, religion, gender, age, national origin, mental or physical disabilities, sexual orientation, or any other similarly protected status. It is our policy to comply with all applicable laws governing employment practices and not to discriminate on the basis of any unlawful criteria. WCG values the diverse backgrounds of its employees and works to create an open atmosphere of trust, honesty, and respect. WCG is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate in its employment decisions.