Community Educator AmeriCorps (1700 Hour) Description

Our 1700 hour AmeriCorps position will have an exciting opportunity to engage with people in the community at large to provide education and information about the programs and opportunities offered by Wasatch Community Gardens, in addition to teaching individuals and offering hands-on learning experiences about growing organic food.

Wasatch Community Gardens (WCG) empowers people of all ages and incomes to grow and eat healthy, organic, local food. In serving as an AmeriCorps with WCG, you will develop professional non-profit career experience, receive semi-flexible schedule with major holidays off, receive access to fresh garden produce, obtain hands-on experience with growing organic food, and spend time outdoors in our beautiful outdoor teaching gardens.

Hours: 11 month, 1700-hour position (February 1, 2016 through January 1, 2017), averaging 40 hours/week, flexible schedule, some evening and weekend hours required.

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 individual(s) with:

- $12,530 living allowance divided into bi-monthly installments,
- An educational award of $5,730 upon successful completion of AmeriCorps service hours,
- An option to purchase benefits including health insurance,
- Receive child care assistance for qualified members,
- Defer student loan payments during service period,
- Earn optional credit hours through Utah State University for this service,
- Receive leadership training,
- Gain practical experience in their future career field,
- Become more civically engaged in the local community,
- Boost their marketability for post-service job searches.

Primary Responsibilities:

**Community Engagement**

- Work with staff to identify potential outreach opportunities to increase program participation.
- Connect with diverse community populations within Salt Lake County to determine if/how communities might connect in with WCG programming.
- Research, develop, and implement systems to pair community groups with WCG programing ensuring programs are community-focused and sustainable.
- Make suggestions to WCG staff about needs of diverse communities as it relates to organic, sustainable gardening and education.
- Conduct WCG program outreach by attending community events, festivals, farmers markets, public meetings, and other community outreach opportunities to share about WCG programs.
• Facilitate connections between members of the community at-large and WCG programs.
• Assist in the creation, implementation, and management of community engagement projects.

**Gardening Education**

• Provide garden tours at various community gardens.
• Assist the Community Education Director with the logistics & facilitation of workshops as needed.
• Assist the Outreach Director with volunteer opportunities as needed.

**Assist with Special Events**

• The Spring Plant Sale fundraiser (involves one Saturday in early May)
• Urban Garden and Farm Week (involves one Saturday in June)
• Tomato Sandwich Party & Fall Plant Sale (involves one Saturday in September)
• Other direct-service tasks as assigned by Community Education Program Director or Outreach Director.

**Required Qualifications / Experience:**

• Strong interest in community engagement with food justice issues/movement.
• Basic knowledge of or strong interest in learning more about sustainable gardening.
• Ability to work independently and apply critical thinking and sound judgment in carrying out project management tasks.
• Basic computer skills including MS Office, Gmail, online calendar, and Apple operating systems.
• Ability to perform physical garden work in variable weather conditions.
• Transportation to/from gardens and office (some transportation reimbursements available).
• Bachelor’s degree or graduation with Bachelor’s degree in 2016 or 1-3 years relatable experience.

**Preferred Qualifications / Experience:**

• Fluency in Spanish
• Prior experience working with diverse populations

**To Apply:**
Send a resume, cover letter, and three references, with **1700 Hour UCC Community Educator Application** in the subject line, to openings@wasatchgardens.org. Position open until filled, but applications received prior to **5:00 pm on Monday, February 1st** will receive priority consideration. Resumes without a cover letter will not be considered. **Note: This position requires a rigorous background check prior to start date.** For questions, please contact Felecia, Outreach Director, at felecia@wasatchgardens.org or call 801.359.2658 x 11.