



Growing food, kids, and community since 1996.

Youth Garden Project - Farm Manager

Position Overview:

The Youth Garden Project Farm Manager will provide leadership of YGP growing operations, soil health, and crop production. This position is a key staff on the admin team of the organization that exhibits leadership, and supports YGP in its events and ongoing growth and development. This is a full-time, year-round, benefited position supervised by the Executive Director.

Target Start Date: January 5, 2021

Successful candidates will demonstrate a strong work ethic, excellence in self-directed and collaborative work, skillful prioritization of tasks and time management, and will represent YGP's mission of cultivating healthy children, families, and community through educational programs and connecting people with food from seed to table.

Primary Duties and Responsibilities

Garden & Site

- Supervise a 1.5 acre educational farm with approximately 80 garden beds.
- Oversee crop production and manage soil health.
- Organize annual plant sale; including ordering seeds and supplies, creating germination schedules, germinating seeds, transplanting, and coordinating with other growers.
- Manage annual and long-term crop planning, materials organization, and garden infrastructure.
- Maintain irrigation systems.
- Maintain a high standard of site appearance by weeding, mulching, pruning, and coordinating repairs to structures.
- Collaborate with the Outreach and Development Coordinator to engage volunteers.
- Implement approved plans for improvements to growing spaces and systems.
- Co-manage the seasonal Garden-Based Educator and Farm Hand position with the Youth Programs Director; provide mentorship, guidance, and training where needed to develop their agricultural skillset.
- Work collaboratively with the Produce Manager to effectively harvest and distribute produce to Community Supported Agriculture shareholders, the community, and other YGP programs.
- Prioritize daily farm tasks and labor, work in partnership with and guide the Produce Manager and Garden-Based Educator and Farm Hand to complete them.
- Assist Produce Manager in value-added product preparation when needed.
- Implement a detailed plan for meeting produce sales budget goals.
- Collaborate with contracted orchardist to maintain orchard health and make improvements as outlined in orchard plan.

The Youth Garden Project cultivates healthy children, families, and community through educational programs and the profound act of connecting people with food from seed to table.

Other Responsibilities

- Collaborate consistently with the Youth Programs Director and Garden-Based Educator and Farm Hand on the intersection of youth and the farm, including growing produce for programs, integrating students into farm happenings, and lending agricultural expertise to program and curriculum design.
- Provide leadership for and be a part of a team to carry out fundraising events such as Garden Dinners, Annual Plant Sale, and Harvest Festival.
- Work with the Executive Director to meet income and expense budget goals.
- Be an enthusiastic representative of the Youth Garden Project at all times.
- Several evenings and approximately 1 weekend day per month for YGP events will be required during the growing season.
- Part of rotating YGP weekend chores schedule, approx. 1 weekend day/month.

Desired Skills and Experience:

- Previous leadership experience on a farm/garden using organic growing practices.
- One growing season on a farm/garden in the southwest (or a similar climate elsewhere in the world) is preferred but not required.
- Diverse knowledge of irrigation systems, organic pest control methods, season extension, and composting techniques.
- Strengths in time management and task prioritization.
- Ability to communicate effectively and positively with staff and community members.
- Working knowledge of plant families, varieties in organic cultivation, and optimal growing conditions.
- Experience with crop planning and scheduling, seed germination, soil health management, and nutrient monitoring.
- Strong interest in working at an educational garden and furthering the mission of the Youth Garden Project.
- Enthusiasm for learning and working collaboratively internally and in the community.
- Proficient with Microsoft Office software and G Suite.
- Baseline knowledge of greenhouses, hoop houses, and other season extension techniques or structures.

Benefits:

- Annual salary \$36,000-\$38,000 dependent on experience and paid twice monthly
- Paid sick leave (accrued at 8 hrs per month) & vacation (10 days to start plus Dec 24-Jan 1); 8 additional paid holidays
- Option to enroll in small group insurance plan (75% of premium company paid)
- Option to enroll in 3% matching simple IRA program after 90 days employment

The Youth Garden Project provides equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants for employment and prohibits discrimination and harassment of any type without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, disability status, genetics, protected veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local laws.

To Apply:

Send a cover letter, resume, and three professional references to Executive Director, Emily Roberson, at emily@youthgardenproject.org.

Please reach out with any questions at this email, or at (435) 259-2326.