

Job Description: Valleybound – Antonito School and Community Garden Cross-Curricular Garden Educator

The Garden Educator is a part-time position that offers critical support to teachers, students and community members to ensure that Conejos Clean Water maximizes the educational potential of our school and community garden. The Garden Educator is responsible for the planting and maintenance of the garden. The Garden Educator leads and facilitates garden science, nutrition, math, language, art and history education lessons. The Garden Educator acts as a resource for teachers as they plan their own cross-curricular lessons in the outdoor classroom, and models skills that teachers need to feel comfortable using the garden to teach science, math, language arts and social studies standards. The Garden Educator also plans and coordinates the Summer Garden Camp for children and youth. In addition to this, the Garden Educator coordinates and organizes weekly community gardening sessions and oversees volunteers.

The Educator:

- Facilitates garden science, math, language, social studies and art lessons, incorporating both environmental and nutrition education as they relate to the garden;
- Works closely with classroom teachers to develop lessons that support classroom teaching in a range of curriculum areas (science, social studies, mathematics, language arts, etc.)
- Oversees and coordinates students' hands-on experiences in the garden (planting, tending, harvesting and cooking);
- Builds involvement in and commitment to the school garden within the school community, including teachers, administrators, clubs (e.g. Future Farmers of America), students, parents and community volunteers;
- Builds capacity within the school by co-teaching with classroom teachers, and developing teacher skills in outdoor classroom management techniques;
- Maintains the garden, coordinates volunteers and works with South Conejos School District *and* outside grants to secure all needed supplies and funding;
- Leads a group of students in garden-related action projects through after-school and summer programming.

Job Responsibilities:

- Manage the school garden, plan and prepare for garden work activities, manage planting schedule, ensure availability of tools and other necessary materials;

- Maintain open garden time schedule for teachers;
- Regularly update South Conejos School Administration and Board of Directors;
- Lead/Coordinate after-school and summer garden club;
- Coordinate community garden events to bring students, families, teachers and community members together to celebrate our rich, cultural heritage and encourage all involved to live healthy, productive lifestyles;
- Coordinate school-wide garden events, in which students prepare and serve garden-grown salad for the entire school at lunch;
- Act as in-school liaison for the Farm to School Program, working closely with the Food Service Director on aligning garden activities and lessons with local, healthy meal choices;
- Attend grade level meetings for collaborations and core curriculum alignment;
- Monitor, document and report on all activities and extent of student, teacher and community participation;
- Maintain school garden blog: *Valleybound* (www.valleybound.org);
- At least 1-2 years of facilitation or teaching experience with youth aged 5-18 (outdoor group management experience preferred);
- Knowledge and skills in small-scale organic food production or home gardening;
- Knowledge of or interest in topics including urban gardening, botany, environmental science, health and nutrition, food systems, food access, environmental justice, social justice and food justice;
- Demonstrated ability to work with diverse populations including youth and adults;
- Strong oral and written communication skills, including public speaking skills;
- Ability to work independently and be flexible;
- Computer skills and project management skills.