



Northwest Youth Corps – AmeriCorps Position Summer Garden Coordinator Position Description



About the Farm:

The Laurel Valley Educational Farm (LVEF) is a 2 acre organic farm located on the Northwest Youth Corps (NYC) campus on Augusta St. in Eugene, OR. Established in 1999 to augment NYC youth programs, it has grown to become an important resource for serving youth and the community. Each year, the farm supplies hundreds of pounds of fresh produce to NYC youth crews, a Community-Supported Agriculture program and NYC's Twin River Charter School Culinary Arts program, and provides excellent applied education and work experience for youth enrolled in NYC programs.

About Northwest Youth Corps:

Northwest Youth Corps is an innovative non-profit organization dedicated to providing opportunities for youth and young adults to learn, grow, and experience success. We operate programs that connect young people to the outdoors; focusing on education, challenge, leadership, community, and empowerment. It was created in 1984 to offer teenagers an education-based, work experience modeled after the historic Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930's. NYC programs include intensive 5 week residential conservation corps crews, local community corps crews, youth day camps, a fully accredited outdoor high school, and a 2 acre organic farm. Youth in our programs gain essential job skills like a solid work ethic, teamwork skills, and perseverance as well as academic credit. Northwest Youth Corps is supported by fee for service work with federal, local and non-profit partners as well as foundation and individual donation support.

Position Summary:

The Garden Coordinator works directly with other AmeriCorps members and youth from NYC's Outdoor School in the daily operation and maintenance of the garden, nursery projects and landscape maintenance activities. Produce from the farm is sent to NYC field crews, donated to the culinary arts program with the Twin Rivers Charter School, and sold to Community Supported Agriculture members. The Coordinator interacts with the Eugene community to distribute community plots, organize workdays, recruit and manage volunteers and facilitate a 25-member CSA.

The Garden Coordinator reports primarily to the ODS Garden Liaison and ODS Principal regarding specific site duties. S/he works shoulder to shoulder with students in the two acre Laurel Valley farm. Emphasis is on leading and instructing youth on organic farming practices while developing, planning and potentially marketing products which can be sold to local area buyers.

Duties and Responsibilities—Essential Functions:

- Responsible for leading the safe and efficient completion of nursery and garden projects
- Responsible for planning and leading education activities with youth and young adults
- Coordinate student visits from local schools
- Teach a garden elective for Twin Rivers students
- Operate a cost-effective agricultural program with a focus on sustainability and revenue generation
- Plan and lead activities for Twin Rivers students during field education weeks

Duties and Responsibilities—Secondary Functions:

- Development of infrastructure and curriculum to promote program identity
- Partner with other organizations, such as the University of Oregon and the School Garden Project, to better serve our students and local community

- Support Twin Rivers Charter School staff in field education and in creating field education activities.

Minimum Qualifications

- College degree in agriculture, forestry, science, ecology or related field preferred (Relevant experience can be substituted for college background)
- Knowledge and experience in propagation of local native species and year-round community gardening
- Experience teaching and leading young adults
- Ability to establish positive rapport with diverse groups of young people
- Ability to develop extensive work plans and work independently
- Desire to help youth develop leadership and job skills and make a difference in their communities
- Good physical condition and ability/willingness to participate in intense physical labor.

Schedule Requirements:

- Full time (40-45 hours a week) with a minimum of 900 hours and 5 month term with occasional night and weekend hours from May 16th until October 14th 2016.

Program Benefits:

- \$6,050.00 living allowance, prorated throughout your term of service
- Training; Loan forbearance
- \$ 2,887.50 Education Award (upon completion of the 900 hours of service)
- The living allowance and education award are taxable. Members are responsible for providing housing, food, work clothes, and a pair of 8 inch tall leather work boots.

For specific information about the Laurel Hill Valley Educational Farm Coordinator position and or Twin Rivers Charter School please contact: Principal Stephen Moore

StephenM@nwyouthcorps.org

Please see our website for complete application requirements www.nwyouthcorps.org or contact Jay Runte at jayr@nwyouthcorps.org