JOB OPENING

Start Date: Now through end of May
Applications accepted on a rolling basis

GARDEN & FACILITIES LEADER
in the Pajaro Valley Unified School District

Full-time, 40 hours per week, with occasional weekends and evenings for school, community, and Life Lab events

The Partner Schools Garden & Facilities Leader will develop and maintain our Partner Schools Garden Classrooms. They are an experienced and dedicated individual who has a passion for garden-based education, hands-on horticulture and construction, knows the Watsonville community, and is committed to racial and social justice, equity, diversity, inclusion and solidarity (JEDIS). The ideal candidate is interested in developing and sustaining gardens as nurturing learning environments, mentoring newer educators and their students in garden care, and collaborating on big picture program development.

Responsibilities

Lead development and maintenance of Partner Schools Garden Classrooms

- Provide design and care leadership for garden classrooms at all Partner Schools in collaboration with Life Lab Instructors.
- Lead construction and maintenance of garden structures and facilities.
- Meet with Instructors regularly to support them in their sites and programs.
- Support and supervise Life Lab School Gardeners, including leading development and tracking of maintenance plans for each site.
- Recruit, train, mentor, and supervise community volunteers, students, and interns for garden classroom care support, including coordinating volunteer work opportunities in collaboration with site teams.
- Partner with Instructors and School Gardeners on crop planning timed for program needs.

Community Connections

- Co-lead outreach to the PVUSD and broader Pajaro Valley communities to connect them with our sites and programs.
- Co-lead development of positive, welcoming relationships with school community members and families.
- Co-lead development of positive, welcoming relationships with community organizations and support partners.
- Help build a culture of school gardening at each site by supporting annual workdays or garden-related events.
Collaboration with Pajaro Valley Partner Schools Program leadership team

- Meet regularly with our Program Leader and Training and Curriculum Specialist to collaboratively lead the Pajaro Valley Partners Schools Program as it grows from 7 to 16 elementary schools.
- Participate in debrief and check-in meetings with Garden Instructors.
- Co-lead program logistics, including materials storage and transportation, food purchases and donations, laundry, and supplies.
- Collaborate on developing and maintaining a welcoming and functional Watsonville program office.
- Collaborate on program evaluation, assessment, and grant reporting.

Organizational

- Participate in weekly staff, JEDIS Learning Community meetings, & program meetings.
- Assist with building strong relations with donors, funders and community partners, including participation in Life Lab fundraising meetings and events when needed.
- Timely record-keeping, time-keeping, and expense tracking and reporting.

Compensation

- $68,000 annual salary, 15 days of accrued paid time-off in the first year, up to 12 days of accrued medical time-off and 12 paid holidays. Life Lab pays 100% of health plan premiums for employees and their eligible dependents, up to $1,300 per month, with generous medical, dental and vision coverage. This is a 40 hour per week position with responsibilities varying seasonally.

Required Qualifications

- Experience managing gardens and/or farms, especially in an educational setting, including:
  - annual vegetables, perennial borders, and fruit trees.
  - irrigation systems.
  - composting and soil fertility management.
- Construction skills and experience maintaining outdoor facilities, including:
  - experience using and troubleshooting powered hand tools.
  - basic carpentry experience.
- Experience troubleshooting facilities problems and managing repairs.
- Knowledge, experience and ability to manage and oversee up to 16 school garden sites.
  - Excellent project management skills, especially relating to effective communication, time management, critical thinking and problem solving.
  - Ability to provide direction and oversight to a small full-time garden team, Life Lab Garden Instructors and community volunteers.
- Experience in the communities of the Pajaro Valley (or similar rural farmworker community).
- A personal commitment to equity and inclusion so that all cultures and identities are respected and celebrated in our work.
● Ability to efficiently travel to Pajaro Valley Unified School District sites and transport materials with a valid driver’s license for use in California and clean record.
● Ability to lift and move 30 lbs.
● Negative tuberculosis test.
● Pass State criminal and FBI background check.

**Desired Qualifications**
● Experience working with public school systems.
● Bilingual, fluent in Spanish and English
● Associates degree or equivalent experience in a related field.

**Application Process**
Please send a cover letter and resumé to Miriam Watson at miriam@lifelab.org as soon as possible. We schedule interviews on a rolling basis. Applications are welcome until the position is filled.

*Life Lab is committed to a policy of non-discrimination as an Equal Opportunity Employer. Employment candidates and employees will be considered and managed without regard to race, color, gender, national origin, age, religion, creed, disability, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or any other basis in accordance with applicable law.*