JOB OPENING

Start Date: July/August 2022
Interviews start Mid-May 2022

LIFE LAB GARDEN INSTRUCTOR
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

Life Lab seeks an energetic, skilled and dedicated educator who has a passion for engaging elementary-age children, and a devotion to teaching experiential garden-based science, literacy, nutrition, environmental education and cooking. Garden Instructors are the heart of a growing Life Lab partnership with the Pajaro Valley Unified School District (PVUSD) to provide rich, garden-based learning and social-emotional wellbeing for more than 7,000 students across 16 elementary schools. In addition to working directly with TK-5 students at garden classrooms at each school, Garden Instructors also co-create and implement programs for family involvement in the gardens and family cooking nights with their school site communities.

Compensation: $57,000 annual salary ($58,000 for instructors with Spanish bilingual ability) 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.

Responsibilities

● Manage and co-maintain the physical garden classroom spaces in your own sites and work as a team with the other Garden Instructors to support each others’ sites.
● Lead TK-2nd grade Next Generation Science in the Garden lessons for approximately 15 classes per week.
● Lead cooking and nutrition lessons for 3rd-5th grade students at each site.
● Build strong relationships within your school communities, including through community outreach at school and family events and community workdays in the garden classrooms.
● Participate in weekly individual check-ins with your Program Leader and weekly Life Lab Instructor team meetings
● Participate in monthly Life Lab all-staff meetings and staff-wide JEDIS (Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Solidarity) Learning Community meetings.
● Gather and share with Life Lab, photos, quotes and assessment data from your programs, to help understand their impacts, refine programs, and share stories with the community.
**Required Qualifications**

- Associates degree or bachelor’s degree from an accredited community college or university.
- Experience teaching and working with elementary-age students, especially in public school settings.
- Strong communication skills in Spanish.
- A love of collaborating with diverse audiences, colleagues, teachers and students.
- An appreciation for working in the outdoors and willingness to learn on-the-job gardening skills.
- Able to commit to work the entire **2022-23 PVUSD school year**.
- A passion for [Life Lab](https://www.lifelab.org)’s mission to cultivate children’s love of learning, healthy food and nature through garden-based education.
- A personal commitment to equity and inclusion so that all cultures and identities are respected and celebrated in our work.
- Experience prioritizing and managing varied projects and needs, both independently and in collaboration with others.
- Ability to prioritize and problem solve in a dynamic daily program environment, both independently and in collaboration with others.
- Ability to get to and from Watsonville, CA, and PVUSD school site(s) on time each day.
- Ability to work legally in the U.S.
- Pass state criminal and FBI background checks, and a national check in the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Registry.
- Test negative for tuberculosis and for COVID-19

**Desired Qualifications/Characteristics**

- Bilingual in Spanish and English. Mixteco is also helpful.
- Bicultural understanding of the Watsonville community and its children’s experiences.
- Experience in the communities of the Pajaro Valley, or a similar rural farmworker community.
- Willingness to learn and practice Positive Discipline in working with children.
- Experience with gardening and garden maintenance.
- Clear and prompt communication.
- Adaptable and flexible with sudden changes in program and priorities.
- Proficiency in Microsoft and Google Suites.

**Application Process**

Please send a cover letter and resumé to Miriam Watson at miriam@lifelab.org. Applications are welcome until the positions are 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.*