

Position/Title: Learning Gardens Environmental Educator, Part-Time (20h/week)
Start Date: September 9th, 2019
Salary: Commensurate with Experience
Contact: Send resume and cover letter to education@cityparksfoundation.org

ABOUT CITY PARKS FOUNDATION

City Parks Foundation (CPF) is the only independent, nonprofit organization whose mission is to offer programs in public parks throughout the five boroughs of New York City. We are dedicated to invigorating and transforming parks into dynamic, vibrant centers of urban life through sports, arts, community development, and education programs for all New Yorkers. Our programs and community building initiatives -- located in more than 350 parks, recreation centers, and public schools across New York City -- reach 425,000 people each year. Our ethos is simple: we believe thriving parks mean thriving communities.

- We connect youngsters to nature in the urban environment with education programs that provide learning experiences through classroom and hands-on activities in parks, urban forests, coastal areas, gardens, and recreation centers.
- We present the largest free, outdoor performing arts festival in NYC through SummerStage, presenting artists of the highest quality across multiple disciplines and genres, and marionette puppet theater in all five boroughs with our Swedish Cottage Marionette Theatre and the roving PuppetMobile.
- Partnerships for Parks, a public-private program of City Parks Foundation and NYC Parks, supports and champions a growing network of leaders who care and advocate for the transformation of their neighborhood parks.
- Free golf, tennis, track & field, soccer, and fitness programs bring high-quality instruction and equipment into areas where few organized athletic opportunities exist. We offer leveled training, year-round scholarship coaching, and special pro events.

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POSITION SUMMARY

Learning Gardens brings year-round, field- and school-based garden science learning to NYC schoolchildren and community members. Our gardens are outdoor classrooms that provide vibrant green space in some of New York City's most densely populated neighborhoods. Operating four community gardens across three boroughs, CPF presents engaging interdisciplinary lessons to expand student learning around urban ecology, horticulture, soil science, and sustainable urban food systems. Students in 2nd – 8th grade and their teachers receive resource materials, curricula, and tools to enhance their understanding of ecosystem services and address the unique challenges of growing food in an urban environment. High School interns are trained in garden instruction and horticultural techniques throughout the spring and then work alongside Learning Gardens staff throughout the summer.

The Part-Time Educator would be in charge of implementing established lesson plans in CPFs current curricula as part of the school day programs from **October-June**. This includes sessions in the classroom and outdoors as part of the garden experiences. The Part-Time Educator reports to the Associate Director of Environmental Education, Learning Gardens.

REQUIREMENTS

- Provide direct instruction using the Learning Gardens curriculum in elementary schools for programs spanning Oct-June with regularly scheduled classes in gardens and school classrooms.
- Contribute to programmatic teacher workshops and professional development sessions.
- Work with both of the Associate Directors of Environmental Education and other staff to help shape curricula by providing relevant feedback.
- Work with both of the Associate Directors of Environmental Education and other staff to implement program evaluation and student assessment strategies and tools.
- Continually investigate best practices through your own professional development in topics such as child development, environmental studies, and pedagogy.
- Assist in maintaining education department resources including educational gear, teaching supplies, and vehicle protocols.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Associate's or Bachelor's Degree in Education, Environmental Education/Science, Environmental Studies, or a related field.
- A minimum of one-two years of teaching experience; experience in outdoor programs and/or in non-traditional settings preferred.
- The ideal candidate will have a strong background in garden-based instruction, outdoor education, and youth development.
- Strong experience with elementary aged students.
- Gardening/horticultural experience a plus.
- Demonstrated success working with diverse students, especially youth from low-income communities.
- Willingness to work with underserved, urban youth from historically under-resourced communities.
- Excellent written and verbal communication as well as problem-solving skills.
- Strong proficiency in Google Drive and Office applications (docs, sheets, slides).
- Willingness to work outdoors year-round in sometimes uncomfortable weather conditions.
- Self-starter with a positive, can-do attitude and consistent follow-through.
- Ability to work both independently and as part of a team is essential.
- Driver's license with willingness to travel throughout NYC alone

CONTACT

Interested parties should email cover letter, resume, and salary requirements to:
Education[at]CityParksFoundation.org. Put 'Learning Gardens Environmental Educator' in subject header.

In your cover letter, please specifically note your education and/or horticultural experience.

Thank you for your interest in City Parks Foundation, an equal opportunity employer. Only potential candidates will be contacted. No calls, please.