



Society Promoting Environmental Conservation

Practical solutions for sustainable cities

Job Title: School Gardens Program Assistant (Summer internship)

Organization: SPEC – Society Promoting Environmental Conservation

Founded in 1969, The Society Promoting Environmental Conservation (SPEC) is a non-profit charitable organization that develops and implements practical solutions for urban sustainability. Areas of work include local food security, zero waste, renewable energy and protection of local land and water resources. Visit www.spec.bc.ca for more information on SPEC's programs and initiatives.

Work tasks and responsibilities:

The School Gardens Program Assistant will work with the SPEC team to support the school gardens and the community groups that maintain the food gardens during the summer months by:

- From Mid-May to the end of June, supporting the School Garden Program Coordinator with facilitating activities outdoors at our schools and at Riley Park.
- Assist with developing a garden plan for crops that can be harvested in the Fall.
- General maintenance of each of the school gardens: watering, weeding and summer plantings
- Capturing images each week documenting the changes in the garden by school.
- Working with community groups and external partners to engage and activate garden related programs - Community Building.
- From July to the end of August helping support the School Gardens Program Coordinator with garden camp programs at Riley Park and or school garden clubs (once/twice per week).
- Developing one unique lesson plan to use in the Fall.
- Social Media: Promoting food literacy/garden related information about the school gardens (3 - 4 times a month) must be aligned with SPEC's marketing guidelines.
- Writing a blog post on your experience working with School Gardens Program.
- Meet with the School Gardens Program Coordinator for regular check-ins and support.
- Always follow COVID safety guidelines and protocols

The **School Gardens Program** (<http://spec.bc.ca/school-gardens>) is an initiative run out of 6 Vancouver schools with varying socio-economic and cultural composition. This year will see the programs 13th year as it continues to expand. It brings school children from Elementary to Secondary age and community members with various backgrounds, to work on a shared project that improves personal and environmental health. It engages participants and the community in a shared project that has them outside getting fresh air, learning new skills and sharing knowledge, producing and consuming fresh local organic produce and putting an environmental solution into practice with tangible results.

Skills development and career enhancement opportunities for student intern

The intern will learn and/or strengthen skills and knowledge in:

- Gardening and urban agriculture
- Community engagement and education
- Online communications
- Interpersonal skills
- Non-profit operations



Society Promoting Environmental Conservation

Practical solutions for sustainable cities

For an individual looking to work in Vancouver's environmental and community development non-profit communities or within the field of urban agriculture this will be an invaluable opportunity for networking and skill building.

Skills and Qualifications:

- Passion for urban agriculture and environmental conservation
- Comfortable working outdoors in varying weather conditions.
- Flexible and adaptable to changing schedules/work conditions
- Strong knowledge of gardening and gardening methods.
- Experience and interest in working with school-aged children and their families
- Outreach and or engagement experience
- Knowledge of social media platforms such as Instagram and Facebook. Able to develop content to share to our Instagram page.
- Capable and willing to travel across the city in summer months, preferably via bicycle or public transportation. You will need to carry some gardening tools and possibly a hose.
- Capable of heavy lifting including garden implements (hoses, shoveling compost)

Eligibility

This position is funded by a Canada Summer Jobs grant. To be eligible, the individual must:

(a) be between 15 and 30 years of age (inclusive) at the start of employment;

(b) be a Canadian Citizen, permanent resident, or person on whom refugee protection has been conferred under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*; and

(c) be legally entitled to work according to the relevant provincial / territorial legislation and regulations.

*International students are not eligible. Recent immigrants are eligible if they are Canadian Citizens or permanent residents.

The job requires having a Criminal Record Check done.

Hours and Wage

Sixteen weeks, 25 hours/week at \$17/hour, starting as soon as possible.

To apply, please send your resume and cover letter to admin@spec.bc.ca. We will be accepting applications and interviewing candidates on an ongoing basis until we find the right person for the role.