



Society Promoting Environmental Conservation
Practical solutions for sustainable cities

Title: SPEC School Gardens Program Helper

Description: The SPEC School Gardens program works with different schools, primarily elementary schools in teaching food literacy and environmental education in Vancouver and the surrounding municipalities. ***Our goal is to connect children to their food, to each other, to nature and their community.***

The SPEC School Gardens Program is seeking up to 8 energetic volunteers to assist with leading garden and food literacy activities for school aged children outdoors on school grounds or nearby green spaces from October to November 2021 and March to June 2022.

Build your experience directly engaging with school aged children (ages 5-13 years) while leading short activities in small groups on topics such as pollinators, soil science, beneficial insects, seasonal changes with lots of hands-on gardening and nature observations. All volunteers will be provided with resources and tips to teach in an outdoor environment.

Volunteers will be supervised by the School Gardens Program Coordinator.

COVID - 19 Safety: Volunteers must adhere to all COVID-19 BC Provincial Health Orders, BC Schools Health and Safety Protocols and VSB protocols. It is recommended that volunteers have both doses of an approved COVID-19 vaccine (in Canada), are required to wear a face mask at all times even outdoors and must bring their own hand sanitizer and garden gloves. Volunteers will be asked for contact tracing and to complete a daily health check 24 hours to any scheduled volunteer shifts.

Minimum age: 19+

Time Commitment: This is a flexible volunteer opportunity. Day time availability is required. We ask that volunteers commit to 3 - 4, three hour shifts throughout the time frame of this project. Preference is for volunteers available to commit for the duration of the school year.

Dates and Times: Dependent on the schools and when lessons are scheduled. Monday to Friday. Shifts range from 8:30 am to 12pm, 12:30 - 3:00pm or full day from 8:30am to 3pm with a 45 min lunch break. Volunteers can sign up for shifts two weeks in advance.



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What you will gain:

1. Skills: Time management, patience, practice working with young children, learning to work in teams, Communicating effectively with different age groups, problem solving and listening skills, adaptability, conflict management, and confidence.
2. Making a meaningful contribution for school aged children.
3. A reference letter

Responsibilities:

1. Lead one nature or garden based activity per scheduled session (15- 20 minutes) per group - guidance and resources will be provided.
2. Assist with making sure students are engaged in the lesson and paying attention.
3. *Support the Program Coordinator with set-up, clean up of activities, cleaning garden equipment and on occasion helping with garden maintenance.

*Some heavy lifting will be required (helping carry and organize supplies and activity stations, setting up tables and or tents). Please note that this volunteer opportunity takes place outdoors in all kinds of weather (rain, snow or shine). Please advise if you have any physical limitations or require any additional support.

Qualifications:

1. Some previous experience working/volunteering with children ages 5-13 years of age.
2. Some knowledge/experience with organic gardening (garden methods, soil health, beneficial insects). This is a great opportunity for teacher candidates, students in food and land systems, farm programs, environmental studies, environmental science, forestry or other sustainability programs.

Other Requirements: All volunteers must complete a Criminal Record Check prior to starting the opportunity and participate in an online interview to be considered.

Please submit your resume and cover letter to the School Gardens Program Coordinator, Sharlene at sharlene@spec.bc.ca