



Silver Lake Conference Center

Job Description

Nature & Garden Specialist

Reports to: Resource Coordinator

Position Purpose:

Provide Nature and Garden programs that are fun, enhance appreciation for Creation, stimulate a passion for environmental justice, and are designed to be age-appropriate. Care for the garden and communicate with the kitchen to best utilize produce.

Principal Duties:

- Provide Nature and Garden programs
 - Prepare and lead Nature and Garden programs for summer conferences
 - Work with Resource Coordinator and volunteer Deans to tailor programs for age and theme of each conference
 - Care for any animals living at camp as part of the Nature program
 - Support the camp's sustainability program, including composting
 - Ensure that conferee social, emotional, and physical needs are met
 - Encourage conferees to try new things while maintaining a culture of challenge by choice
 - Enforce rules, camp behavioral covenant, and conference covenant
 - Inventory and order supplies and equipment as needed
- Care for the Garden and crops
 - Perform daily and weekly upkeep for organic garden
 - With Program Director and the Food Services Manager, make a plan for planting and harvesting crops
 - Harvest, wash, and process produce for use in kitchen
 - Schedule work groups (campers, staff, or volunteers) as needed
 - Inventory and order supplies and equipment as needed
- Works as a member of the Resource Team
 - Assist Resource Staff with support to Deans as schedule allows
 - Become familiar with, train staff in, and enforce current best practices around Covid-19 mitigation
 - Address or report safety issues
 - Provide program support for games and night activities as scheduled

Other Job Duties:

- Kitchen support as needed
- Participate in emergency drills
- Respond to emergencies
- Establish a positive and helpful environment, showing kindness to those we serve and the team
- Establish ways of work that will reduce waste of resources and respect and protect God's creation and promote sustainable practices
- Live, work in, and encourage a Christian community
- Uphold the rules and policies of Silver Lake Conference Center
- Other duties as assigned

Relationships:

The Nature & Garden Specialist works closely with the Resource Coordinator and the volunteer Deans to deliver nature and garden program to campers. The Nature & Garden Specialist works with the Food Services Manager and the Program Director to ensure the produce of the garden is useful to larger camp goals. The Nature & Garden Specialist works with the Resource Staff to support the summer conference program.

Equipment Used:

- Gardening equipment, which could include but is not limited to, hoes, rakes, shovels, and wheelbarrows.
- Chemicals that could include but are not limited to organize fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides.
- Activity equipment, which could include, but is not limited to, sports supplies, music equipment, A/V equipment, photography equipment, art supplies, ceramic supplies, electric kiln, garden chemicals, animal care supplies, lifeguarding equipment, challenge course equipment
- A variety of hand tools and power tools
- Housekeeping equipment, including but not limited to cleaning chemicals, mops, brooms, vacuums, steam cleaners, washing machines, and dryers

Qualifications:

- Age 18 or older
- Experience leading programs and activities with young people
- Excellent teaching skills
- Excellent organizational skills
- Knowledge of hazards, natural and human-made, that may be encountered when exploring and learning in the outdoors
- Experience & knowledge of sustainable gardening (preferred)
- First Aid/CPR certification, or ability to obtain such
- Must submit health history record and examination form prior to first day of work
- Satisfactory background check

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Ability to work independently and to schedule self to meet deadlines
- Ability to guide and inspire children to explore the environment
- Knowledge of techniques, tools & supplies used in a variety of nature activities.
- Comfortable working with and caring for animals such as chickens, rabbits, hamsters, birds, ducks, guinea hens, tortoises, chinchillas, etc.
- Broad knowledge of the environment
- Working knowledge of applicable State statutes and ACA standards
- Understand the development needs of youth
- Ability to relate to youth in a positive manner
- Ability to create an environment that promotes personal growth, community building, and teamwork
- Superior communication skills
- Exhibit maturity
- Be an appropriate role model
- Work in an organized manner
- Live by the Rules and Covenant and policies of Silver Lake Conference Center and the Southern New England Conference of the UCC.

Physical Aspects of the Job:

- Ability to work for long periods of time without sitting
- Ability to observe camper behavior, assess its appropriateness, enforce appropriate safety regulations and emergency procedures, and apply appropriate behavior-management techniques
- Ability to lift 50 pounds
- Ability to respond appropriately to situations requiring first aid. Must be able to assist campers in an emergency (fire, evacuation, illness, or injury)

Term of Service: This is a seasonal position to serve Silver Lake's summer program. Dates of service will be defined in a written letter of agreement and will include the pre-summer Staff Development Program.

Compensation: 2022 salary will be set in early 2022.