



Florida Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc. School Garden Specialist

PROGRAM OVERVIEW: Florida Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc. (FAITC) is a non-profit organization working to develop and distribute agricultural curricula and materials as well as train classroom teachers in how to use these tools to educate Florida's youth about agriculture. FAITC receives its funding from the sale of the Florida Agricultural Specialty license plate and is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of agricultural industry leaders. Its mission is to increase agricultural literacy through PreK-12 education in Florida.

POSITION DISCLAIMER: This is a two-year grant funded position. This project has been funded at least in part with Federal funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the view or policies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

POSITION LOCATION: This is a full-time position. The FAITC office is in Gainesville, FL but this position location is flexible.

POSITION DESCRIPTION: The primary purpose for the School Garden Specialist is to support Florida educators with their school garden programs, with the intent to increase student consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables.

The School Garden Specialist will be responsible for outreach to PreK-12 grade public, charter and non-profit private schools. They will assist teachers with technical garden support when needed to enhance teacher's ability to start and maintain their classroom garden and use it as an effective hands-on teaching tool. The School Garden Specialist will be required to travel to school districts in Florida to present FAITC lessons in the classroom to model Florida state standard aligned lessons for educators. They will make contact with local school district food service personnel to facilitate the use of school garden produce in the cafeteria.

The School Garden Specialist will work closely with the FAITC Executive Director, Education Specialist and the FAITC Board of Directors. This person will be administratively responsible to the FAITC Executive Director with input from the Executive Committee for his or her annual performance evaluation as well as approval of leave and expenses.

The School Garden Specialist will work closely with various groups in Florida including the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Department of Education and local school district personnel. The ability to initiate and maintain a working relationship with these organizations is essential.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

This position requires a proven self-starter and the ability to multi-task. The individual must possess strong verbal and written communication and public speaking skills, strong organizational skills and the ability to problem solve. The position requires a self-directed and highly motivated individual.

The School Garden Specialist should understand Farm to School programs in Florida, specifically the ability to procure local produce for the school cafeteria.

This individual should understand agricultural concepts and its contextual learning interface with PreK-12 education, either through coming from an agriculture background, demonstrated educational preparation or previous position experience.

In-state travel will be required to fulfill the duties of the position.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND PRIORITIES:

1) School Garden Support

- Identify Florida PreK-12 grade public, charter and non-profit private schools that have a school garden programs.
- Provide technical support to PreK-12 grade public, charter and non-profit private schools that want to start or maintain a school garden.
- Assist PreK-12 grade public, charter and non-profit private schools in finding funding for their school garden.
- Visit school garden programs.

2) Educational Outreach

- In collaboration with FAITC Education Specialist, present FAITC school garden lessons in Florida PreK-12 grade public, charter and non-profit private school classrooms.
- Assist the FAITC Education Specialist with teacher workshops.

3) School Garden Certification Assistance

- Collaborate with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Food Nutrition and Wellness, to promote their School Garden Certification Program.
- Assist schools in setting up proper food safety handling techniques in school gardens.
- Assist Florida schools in gaining their certification.

4) Food Service Staff Assistance

- Work with school district food service personnel to increase the amount of fresh fruits and vegetables procured from school gardens into school cafeterias.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor's degree. Prefer a major in K-12 education area, agricultural education, horticulture or nutrition.
- Knowledge of agriculture content and concepts, either through formal training, past work experience or an agriculture background.
- Gardening experience and knowledge.
- Utilization of technology.
- Evidence of public speaking and/or presentation skills.
- Ability to work with a volunteer program network and diverse audiences.
- Must be able to work independently.
- Must be able to work with a board of directors and be comfortable as a member of a working team of professionals
- Available for travel, including overnight stays to accomplish core responsibilities.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Teaching experience in a public or private school with a current teaching certificate in agriculture or related field.
- Experience working with public school's food service departments.
- Knowledge of current trends in education, including new technology uses, and in articulating the Florida academic standards.

SALARY: \$42,000 for 2-year position; sick/vacation time and equipment required

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

Please submit the following:

1. A personal letter describing applicant's qualifications for the position
2. Resume
3. Letters of recommendation from three references
6. **Send the above information by Friday, September 4, 2020 to:**

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