



Seeking Two Part-Time Environmental Educators/Independent Contractors Growing a Wild NYC - 2016-17 School Year

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Growing a Wild NYC program (“Wild”) is seeking two Part-Time Environmental Educators/Independent Contractors with horticulture experience to join the program during the 2016-17 school year.

The year-long program enlists the help of NYC public school students to restore pollinator habitat in New York City while teaching them about their environment. (Visit www.growingwildnyc.org to learn more about the program and how it works). “Wild” is a collaboration between the National Park Service/Gateway National Recreation Area, the National Wildlife Federation Eco-Schools USA, the Greenbelt Native Plant Center, the NYC Department of Education, The Battery Conservancy, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), Groundwork Hudson Valley and the NYU Wallerstein Collaborative.

Using NYC’s local parks/gardens and schools as real-life learning laboratories, the Wild program teaches students in grades K – 12 about local pollinators, their habitats, and the causes of their decline. Over the full school year, students learn basic (indoor and outdoor) gardening techniques and use their newfound knowledge to grow the native plant species that pollinators need to survive.

In 2016-17, the program will include 14 schools in Brooklyn and Queens and two new pilot NYC Eco-Schools in lower Manhattan. The Part-Time Environmental Educators/Independent Contractors will primarily work with the 14 schools in Brooklyn and Queens.

JOB DESCRIPTION/DUTIES:

As Independent Contractors with the National Wildlife Federation, and in collaboration with staff from the National Park Service (NPS) and the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), the Part-Time Environmental Educators/Independent Contractors will be assigned to work with 14 NYC Eco-Schools in Brooklyn and Queens, all NYC Department of Education K-12 public schools, **from September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017**. The Educators/Contractors will work with at least one classroom from each school (up to 30 students per class) and sometimes two or more classrooms per school. The Educators/Contractors will assist with the preparation and delivery of pollinator-focused education and hands-on horticulture programs as well as help to refine the existing program curriculum.

Duties will include:

- Becoming well-versed about the Growing a Wild NYC program by attending meetings, trainings and team calls, including a teacher workshop on Saturday, October 1, 2016;
- Leading two educational classroom visits per school between October 2016 and March 2017;
- Co-leading field trips to Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn and/or Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, part of Gateway National Recreation Area, in collaboration with NPS staff, from October 2016 to June 2017;
- Helping with seed collection and cleaning, STEM-focused soil testing activities, seed starting and stratification, germination under grow lights, basic plant care, stepping up and hardening of seedlings, and planting;



JOB DESCRIPTION/DUTIES (Continued):

- Spring plantings at Gateway National Recreation Area with NPS staff, and in school gardens with Habitat Steward volunteers, May/June 2017;
- Collaborate with partners to refine existing program curriculum including lesson plans and compilation of relevant resources.
- Collaborate with and assist Growing a Wild NYC staff working in two lower Manhattan pilot schools.

Additional Duties:

- Perform various administrative tasks as needed (personal email, phone, collection of forms, photocopying); (*program-related expenses will be reimbursed with valid receipts and with prior approval*)
- Assist in program documentation through photography and upload photos to a drive;
- Acquire necessary materials to bring to the schools: seeds, trays, soil for stratification, bags, compost;
- Write blogs about the program and help update program website if needed: www.growingwildnyc.org

QUALIFICATIONS:

- A degree in education, environmental studies, horticulture, botany or a related field is desired but relevant experience may be substituted; experience in gardening/horticulture preferred; strong interest in and/or knowledge about pollinators
- Punctuality
- Prompt communication with supervisors and confidentiality where required
- Must be willing to be reachable on a personal cell phone during work hours
- Access to a personal computer for completing program-related work and basic computer skills including proficiency with email, Internet, social media, Excel, PowerPoint, Microsoft Word
- High comfort level with getting hands dirty and doing physical gardening work
- Experience in K-12 classroom settings and comfortable working with children ages 4-18
- Ability to travel/commute between boroughs, including for project trips and events
- A commitment to the goals of the program

Candidate will be asked to:

- Submit to a NYC Department of Education background check (required to work in NYCDOE schools)
- Provide 3 references

COMPENSATION AND SCHEDULE:

- This position pays \$10,000 (from September 2016 through August 2017) plus public transportation expenses. Work - between the hours of 9am and 5pm including travel to and from sites - will be concentrated in the months of September/October/November 2016, January, March, May/June 2017.

Interested candidates should email resumes NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th to:

Emily A. Fano, Senior Manager, NWF NYC Eco-Schools - fanoe@nwf.org / (646) 502-7096