



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: Environmental Educator/ Tzedakah Gardening Coordinator

Position Type

30 hours/week

Compensation \$14/hour

Start Date: ASAP - August 31, 2018

Location: Primary location is Shoresh's Kavanah Garden in Vaughan, ON. On occasion, additional work sites may include Shoresh office at Harbord and Spadina, Bela Farm in Hillsburgh, and additional program sites in GTA.

Organization Overview

Shoresh inspires and empowers our community to take care of the earth by connecting people, land, and Jewish tradition. Through nature-based Jewish education, healthy food production for tzedakah, environmental action, and sustainable Jewish products, we offer community member's meaningful opportunities to be responsible stewards of the world around us. Serving the communities of Southern Ontario, Shoresh operates out of the Kavanah Garden in Vaughan, Bela Farm in Hillsburg, and through schools, synagogues, camps, and community organizations throughout the Greater Toronto Area. Grounded in Canadian soil, Shoresh gets community members back to their Jewish roots!

Role Summary

Shoresh is seeking to hire an Environmental Educator/ Tzedakah Gardening Coordinator. The successful candidate will be responsible for supporting the educational mission of Shoresh in a variety of ways. This includes serving as a support educator for various community programs, and assisting with the maintenance of Shoresh's key garden and programming spaces. In addition, the role will entail running the Tzedakah Gardening initiative. This initiative is aimed at mobilizing our community of volunteers to grow organic vegetables at the Kavanah garden to be donated to families in need.

Responsibilities

Education:

- Manage and Coordinate the Tzedakah Garde crew initiative with stakeholders including including volunteers, partnering organizations, schools, and our food bank partners
- Set up, facilitate and tear down of Jewish environmental hands-on education programs for students and community members during school programs and community events/drop-ins

- Leads nature based group outdoor activities teaching about sustainability, ecology and the intersection with Jewish values, texts, holidays, and traditions.
- Ensures festivals and weekly community events/drop-in runs smoothly at the Kavanah Garden and at off-site locations
 - Design weekly activities, greet participants, and direct them to activities/tasks
- Designs new curriculum, and prepares and gathers materials for programs when necessary
- Assists in facilitating and supporting community garden festival and events

Site Maintenance

- Maintain the health and well-being of Shoresh's garden sites through planting, watering, mulching, building structures
- Maintains data log of all activities, harvests, and volunteering
- Using basic carpentry skills, build garden features and infrastructure, such as raised garden beds
- Design and develop interactive garden features
- Guide program participants and community volunteers in garden maintenance and garden-based projects
- Assists in coordinating sustainable organic growing practices (including crop rotation, watering schedule, and volunteer work scheduling)

Supervision plan: The Environmental Educator/ Tzedakah Gardening Coordinator will be jointly supervised by our Youth & Family Program Associate and Director of Programs. The Environmental Educator will participate in a one-day site and four day training on Nature-based experiential education. As well, the Environmental Educator will participate in monthly professional development trainings for all Shoresh staff. The Youth & Family Program Associate will facilitate weekly team meetings with the Environmental Educator/ Tzedakah Gardening Coordinator and conduct daily post-program evaluations. The Environmental Educator/ Tzedakah Gardening Coordinator will receive oral performance evaluations mid-contract and written performance evaluations at the end of their contract.

Mentorship plan: The Environmental Educator/ Tzedakah Gardening Coordinator will be mentored by both the Youth & Family Program Associate and the Director of Education. Following their orientation and training, Environmental Educators will work with their mentors to draft personal mentorship plans, which will set clear goals and objectives around particular skills they wish to develop that will serve their professional growth. The mentors will plan monthly professional development opportunities around the mentorship goals of the Tzedakah Gardening Coordinator and will meet monthly to revisit personal mentorship plans.

Qualifications

We are looking for someone to join our team who understands the issues addressed by Shoresh's programs and initiatives, and is committed to the values espoused by Shoresh. As well, as are looking for someone who is familiar with and open to the many different ways that community members live and express themselves Jewishly.

Experience Required:

- Working with children ages 3-12
- Outdoor/environmental education
- Jewish education/knowledge

- Strong knowledge of Jewish values, teachings and practices
- Small scale organic gardening
- Managing and working with volunteers

Personal Qualities:

- Enthusiastic, warm, motivated, responsible, flexible and grounded
- Open to the many ways that community members understand and engage with questions of Jewish identity.
- “Get it done” mentality: is resourceful, self motivated, and takes initiative
- Big picture thinker and logistically minded
- Interest and experience in working with demographics including seniors and special needs
- Proven commitment to developing healthy, balanced and open working relationships
- Demonstrated exceptionally strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Love of nature, and spending time outdoors

Important Note

This is a Canada Summer Jobs position funded by Service Canada. Applicants must be:

- Be between 15 and 30 years of age at the start of the employment
- Have been registered as full-time students in the previous academic year and intend to return to school on a full-time basis in the next academic year
- Be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or person to whom refugee protection has been conferred under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act
- Have a valid Social Insurance Number at the start of employment and be legally entitled to work in Canada in accordance with relevant provincial or territorial legislation and regulations

Other Requirements:

- Valid driver’s license with access to a vehicle (bonus)
- Must be able to lift 15lb
- Has (or will obtain) current emergency first aid certification (bonus)

To Apply:

Please e-mail your resume and cover letter outlining how your skills and experiences make you an ideal candidate for this position to hire@shores.ca with “Environmental Educator/ Tzedakah Gardening Coordinator” in the subject line. Please visit www.shores.ca or contact us at 416-805-8382 for more information.