



Taproot Farm & Environmental Education Center

nourishing food ~ healthy environment ~ strong community

101 Main Street, Lancaster, NH 03584

(603) 788-4183

www.taprootnh.org

School Garden & Community Educator Description

About the Program:

Taproot is an organization in which relationships are developed – with our food, with the environment, and with each other. Early experiences in nature are precursors to caring for the environment as adults. This can be as simple as walking in the woods or growing our own food. From younger years, Taproot believes activities such as unstructured, imaginative play in nature, gardening, and lovingly preparing wholesome, nutritious meals should be a critical component of education. Additionally, spending time immersed in nature as adolescents and young adults allows us to form life-long relationships with the natural world. Our agricultural and ecological based education programs are at the heart of our mission where we aim to engage learners of all ages by encouraging discovery, inspiring curiosity, and nurturing relationships.

About the Position:

The School Garden & Community Educator is a systems thinker who will play a vital role in our organization as they will integrate our Marketplace, Education, and Food Access programs. With a focus on food systems and the environment, this person will be a flexible, community-oriented, and enthusiastic team member who enjoys working with children, youth, and adults in a variety of programs in diverse settings, such as local schools, the community garden, and in the kitchen of our Marketplace. Our School Garden & Community Educator will work closely with our Education Team to develop and implement programs that are immersive and connect learners of all ages to nature through, for example, cooking with freshly harvested ingredients from the garden, or starting seeds to plant with students. We strive to develop creative programming that is engaging and learner led, and look to our education staff to be nurturing and empathetic as they create phenomenological and aesthetic learning experiences such as storytelling or developing a sensory guidebook of herbs.

Essential Duties & Responsibilities:

- Help plant, maintain, and harvest garden plots at school gardens and our education plot at the Lancaster Community Garden
- Help develop and maintain current school programming
- Work with our Education Team, and with community partners where appropriate, to develop and implement a variety of environmental education programs for Homeschool, After School, community gardeners, and the general public
- Develop cooking classes in the Taproot kitchen
- Create seasonal, food, and agriculture interpretive displays and materials for the Marketplace
- Develop seasonal gardening programs at the community garden for preschoolers and adults
- Create and implement environmental education lesson plans and maintain educational materials that align with Taproot's philosophy of education



Education ~ Food Access ~ Marketplace

- Help to maintain relationships with Education and community partners

Minimum Requirements/Qualifications:

- Self-motivated with a high degree of flexibility, creativity, and independence
- Ability to clearly and concisely communicate orally and in writing
- Excellent organizational skills
- Effective public speaker
- Ability to use various types of technology (i.e. word processing, Microsoft Office Suite, GoToMeeting, on-line reporting system).
- Possess knowledge of and passion for local food systems.
- Demonstrate passion for inspiring healthful eating and for promoting local, sustainable agriculture.
- Must be comfortable working outside in northern NH in all four seasons.
- Must have a BA/BS in environmental studies or related field and have some experience with outdoor and environmental education. (Will consider candidates who have participated in a gap year or semester program with Outward Bound, NOLS, Kropa, or a similar organization coupled with at least 2 years of seasonal EE work.)
- Possess knowledge of and passion for local food systems
- Must have a comfort level and demonstrate experience teaching (formal or non-formal) and leading groups in an outdoor, environmental education setting working with participants ranging from children to adults.
- Possess a positive attitude, high energy, and exhibit patience.
- Ability to lift 50 pounds.
- Ability to pass a criminal background check.

Desired Qualifications:

- Teaching style that aligns with Taproot's education philosophy
- Ability to teach in another language
- Experience working in an organic garden or possess a willingness to learn.
- Wilderness First Aid/CPR certification
- Has an artistic and/or musical background

Compensation and Benefits:

This is a Part Time (Full time starting in summer), hourly paid position with compensation starting at \$16/hour. Benefits after 3 months include: a discount at our Marketplace, WFA certification, a plot at the community garden, paid holidays depending on schedule, and discount on education programs for household members.

potential local housing opportunities may be available for rent



To Apply:

Please send the following materials to info@taprootnh.org

- Cover letter, including
 - Your education, background, skills, & experience
 - Your interest in Taproot's mission
 - Experience living and working in rural communities
 - Description of your educational philosophy, gardening experience, and why you would be a good fit for this position
- Resumé
- Contact information for three professional references

About Taproot Farm & Environmental Education Center:

Taproot Farm & Environmental Education Center (Taproot) is a registered 501c3 tax-exempt nonprofit organization. Our work is guided by our mission, which is educating, inspiring, and connecting communities to the land, to their food, and to each other. Our work falls under three distinct but integrated realms: Education, Food & Agriculture, Ecological & Community Stewardship. Our programs include a Marketplace, a variety of Food Access programs and services, and a diverse slate of education programs. While Taproot's work is varied, each of its programs stems from the central principle that healthy food, a healthy environment, and a healthy community are intimately linked and mutually supportive. With this principle in mind, Taproot's programs support three impact areas: economic viability, restorative food systems, and environmental education.

Taproot is a complete non-smoking/non-vaping environment - no exceptions.

Taproot has zero tolerance for child abuse or placing children in danger. Taproot requires all employees who work in a program which serves children, disabled persons, or the elderly to have a criminal record check performed annually.

Taproot is an equal opportunity provider and employer. We do not and shall not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, creed, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, financial status, national or ethnic origin, or any other classification protected by law. These activities include, but are not limited to, hiring and firing of staff, selection of volunteers and vendors, participation in all programs, and provision of services. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our staff, clients, volunteers, subcontractors, vendors, and customers.

