



## **Schoolyard Roots Seeks Garden Educator**

### **About Schoolyard Roots:**

Schoolyard Roots brings learning to life through hands-on teaching gardens at twelve elementary schools across Tuscaloosa, AL. For 14 years, we have cultivated curiosity and connection, engaged communities with food and nature, and connected classroom learning to the real world. We are proud to offer our employees a supportive, flexible, and understanding work environment that values work/life balance.

### **About the Position:**

The Garden Educator implements hands-on garden education programs at four of our partner school gardens. They will also be responsible for class preparation, contributing to lesson planning and curriculum development, garden planning and maintenance, and collaborating with the Schoolyard Roots team and their partner schools to deliver an outstanding garden education program. The ideal candidate will have experience teaching elementary-age students, a knowledge of organic vegetable gardening, and a proven record of program administration.

**Application Closing Date: Open Until Filled**

**Preferred Start Date: Thursday, August 1, 2024**

### **Salary & Benefits:**

This is a full-time, year-round position with a starting salary range of \$30,000 - \$35,000 based on experience and qualifications, with the opportunity for performance-based raises. SYR offers a flexible work environment and a generous benefits package which is detailed below.

**Benefits Package includes:** 100% of healthcare premiums paid by employer; 18 days Paid Time Off; 11 paid holidays; 1 day PTO during birth month; 3% match on SIMPLE IRA after 1 year of employment; Flexible scheduling & some ability to work remotely outside of committed teaching & garden time (requires director approval); Supportive, understanding, and flexible work environment that values work/life balance; Access to fresh, organic produce, herbs, and flowers from the gardens when available.

### **Responsibilities:**

- Teach weekly garden-based lessons to K-5<sup>th</sup> graders at 4 of SYR's partner schools (approximately 25 lessons per week), using SYR's curriculum and adding additional lessons, as needed and as agreed upon by SYR's leadership.
- Create a safe, structured and warm learning environment for all students modeling respect and curiosity for learning.

- Work together with partner school teachers and principals to set semester schedule and expectations for garden classes.
- Prepare for lessons including reflecting on and trouble-shooting the lesson plans, creating and/or organizing lesson materials, and communicating with partner school teachers about lesson responsibilities.
- Maintain our partner school gardens as a point of pride for the school and a place of beauty, diversity, and creativity for students, staff and families.
- Work with the school staff to incorporate the garden as part of the school's culture.
- Develop community buy-in at SYR's partner schools, including building relationships with school staff and families and creating excitement about the garden program.
- Manage crop rotations, planting, harvesting, weeding, fertilizing, pest management, irrigation, seed-saving, and other garden-maintenance related activities in partner school gardens and maintain accurate records of garden maintenance.
- Work with the SYR leadership to manage SYR fellows, University of Alabama student interns and volunteers to achieve mission goals.
- Develop and maintain relationships with community organizations and educational institutions in support of program goals.
- Collaborate with the SYR Education Team in curriculum development and program implementation.
- Where possible, record student testimonials and take picture documentations of lessons in action.
- Model respect and curiosity for learning.
- Attend regular SYR Education Team and All-Staff Meetings.
- Maintain consistent and constructive communication with SYR team and partner schools; arrive at work on time and prepared for the day and provide sufficient notice of changes in schedule.
- Act as an ambassador of SYR in the gardens, at our partner schools, and in the community.
- When appropriate, assist with SYR special events and volunteer days including being available for some evenings and some weekends.
- When appropriate, assist with SYR special projects.
- Participate in regular check-ins with SYR leadership to establish goals and review performance.

**Additional Duties and Requirements:**

- Be a responsible representative of SYR in the community.
- Work collectively to fulfill the mission and vision of SYR.
- Maintain satisfactory reports and records for SYR.
- Report to the Program Director and Executive Director, communicate activities, progress, and needs of programs, and work cohesively with the SYR Team.
- Be able to lift 50 lbs, stand on feet for 8 hours at a time, be outdoors for 8 hours at a time in all non-dangerous weather, and be physically active.
- Be knowledgeable about organic gardening techniques.
- Maintain knowledge on current food systems, organic gardening and garden education trends.
- Must pass federal and state background checks.

**Experience:**

- Bachelor's degree, preferably in Education, Science, Recreation or a related field OR 4 years of experience in education OR comparable experience.
- Experience working with elementary aged students required.
- 1-2 years of work experience including teaching and program planning and implementation.
- Strong enthusiasm for experiential, sensory education, with an emphasis on garden-based, outdoor education required.
- Experience working with students from varying socio-economic backgrounds, including students from historically marginalized communities.
- Experience growing and managing organic vegetable gardens.
- Working knowledge of basic computer programs including Office 365 and Google Suite.

**Desired Qualities and Characteristics:**

- Believe in every student's ability to achieve
- Passion for community engagement
- Take personal responsibility and initiative
- Highly detail-oriented and organized
- Collaborate effectively with a range of stakeholders
- Strong written and communication skills

**Compensation:**

This is a full-time, year-round position with a starting salary range of \$30,000 - \$35,000 based on experience and qualifications, with the opportunity for performance-based raises. SYR offers a flexible work environment and a generous benefits package which is detailed below.

**Benefits Package includes:**

- 100% of healthcare premiums paid by employer
- 18 days Paid Time Off
- 11 paid holidays
- 1 day PTO during birth month
- 3% match on SIMPLE IRA after 1 year of employment
- Access to fresh, organic produce, herbs, and flowers from the gardens when available

- Flexible scheduling & some ability to work remotely outside of committed teaching & garden time (requires director approval)
- Supportive, understanding work environment that values work/life balance

**To Apply:**

Please fill out the Application Form at <https://bit.ly/SYRGardenEducator>.

**Application Closing Date: Open Until Filled**

**Start date: August 1, 2024**

*Schoolyard Roots is proud to be an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, genetics, disability, age, or veteran status.*