



“To cultivate a healthy local food system, Noyo Food Forest creates opportunities for Fort Bragg youth and the Mendocino Coast community to learn about, grow and access sustainably grown, garden fresh foods.”

## **NOYO FOOD FOREST GARDEN EDUCATOR**

### **Program Description**

The Learning Garden is an on-site Farm to School program at Fort Bragg High School and a training center in organic, community-based agriculture. The garden is a project of Noyo Food Forest in partnership with the Fort Bragg Unified School District (FBUSD). The half-acre garden, comprised of open-air beds and three hoop houses, was started in the Fall of 2006 and is cared for by Noyo Food Forest staff, youth interns, FBHS students, and the community. It is not certified as an organic farm, but the guiding principals are ecological integrity, sustainability, and innovation.

Produce from the garden is purchased by FBUSD for the school cafeteria meals, after-school and nutrition programs, and is sold at the Farmers Market and other local outlets. Produce is also donated to a variety of community organizations and shared with volunteers, interns and staff. Proceeds from produce sales, fundraising events, grants and generous community donations ensure the continuation of the garden and its educational programs. Community volunteers are welcome to coordinate with staff for gardening, special projects, and engagement in events.

The primary focus of the Learning Garden is just that – a learning space. Students and community may engage in a variety of ways – dedicated volunteering, leisurely lunches with friends or co-workers, tours to get ideas for home gardening, an aesthetically pleasing space with potential for photography and art, etc. The Learning Garden is a “community farm” in all senses of the term – we grow people, we grow soil, and we grow food.

### **IDEAL CANDIDATES**

- Minimum two years experience in organic vegetable production and/or educational garden setting
- Demonstrated success in coordinating and supervising people, and collaborating with other NFF staff in a positive working environment
- Willingness to foster relations with people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds
- Creative, well-organized, flexible, responsible and motivated character
- Strong written and verbal communication skills, including familiarity and capability using email, internet, and other electronic communications
- Experience working with grants and community-based funding sources
- Valid California Driver’s License
- Bilingual desirable

### **GARDEN EDUCATOR**

The Noyo Food Forest Learning Garden Educator (GE) is a year-round, part-time position requiring dedication to our local food system and passionate determination to engage local youth with the production of organic fruits and vegetables for our Farm to School program and other outlets. The position collaborates with the Garden Technician to train interns in gardening activities and administers the internship program. The GEO collaborates with the Executive Director (ED) on how best to execute and work within grant

guidelines and regulations, is responsible for garden budget and all garden associated activities. The position is accountable to the Board of Directors and all efforts should directly uphold the mission of Noyo Food Forest.

### **Primary Responsibilities**

- Collaborates with GT in overall garden plan, including but not limited to:
  - All production crops – planning, watering, weeding, sowing, transplanting, harvesting, mulching
  - Year-round bountiful pollen producing plants for bee forage
  - Plantings for edges and entrances
  - Beneficial animal, insect habitat, pest control
  - Soil health, compost, soil building system
- Coordinates Noyo Food Forest internship program:
  - Develop and maintain curriculum and coordinate with GT to educate interns in community food production, sustainability, garden design, nutrition, and job skills associated with community agriculture
  - Recruits participants. Administers schedule, reviews hours and performance, etc.
  - Develops working relationship with interns to ensure a safe, positive, valuable experience (regularly assessing progress via reviews, group dialogue, surveys)
  - Classroom visits, marketing and promotion, web presence (website, social media)
- Farmers Market:
  - Coordinates with GT to harvest and prepare for weekly Farmers Market
  - Transport booth infrastructure, produce and interns to market (via own vehicle or NFF van)
  - Attends for the duration and trains interns in selling produce and upholding mission of the organization
  - Encourages interns to interact with other growers and producers of the market
  - Demonstrates healthy relations with growers, producers, market manager and broader community at market
  - Accounts for all sales, provides ED with closing paperwork and deposit
  - Communicate with GT re: ideas for crop planning based on market observations (items selling, competition, potential niche product)
- Maintains a collaborative relationship with FBHS faculty to use the Learning Garden as an outdoor classroom and hands-on learning environment for class work and projects, includes close interaction with counseling, front office. Open and respectful relations with all FBUSD staff and faculty and neighboring FBHS Agriculture department and campus.
- Coordinate with ED re: garden produce orders and deliveries to multiple campus cafeterias
- Coordinate with ED in scheduling tours, field trips with local schools, after-school program, and youth groups

### **Physical Requirements**

A production garden is a physically demanding environment. Candidates must be able to perform all reasonable physical activities in this position which require mobility and include a range of tasks such as: lifting, digging, pruning, weeding, harvesting, use of garden tools and operating equipment.