

ORGANIC GARDENING AND SIMPLE FOOD TEACHER

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPEN POSITION

JOB DESCRIPTION

Organization: The arts kindle a summer of fun at Usdan Summer Camp for the Arts where each day is a new opportunity for students to explore their creativity and make friends on an inspiring 140-acre woodland campus. Usdan's mission is to develop artistic talent and foster a lifetime of imagination, industry, and creative endeavor. Since opening in 1968, 40,000 children and young adults have enjoyed the benefits of Usdan's programs.

The camp offers arts study in Music, Visual Art, Theater, Dance, and Writing, as well as related study in Nature, Chess and Recreational Arts. More than 70 classes are taught in these departments with students creating their own unique summer program comprised of one major course (two hours), one minor course (one hour), and one recreational activity (one hour). The camp's programs are designed for students of varying levels of experience and ability, from beginner to advanced. Auditions are not required for most programs and admission is based on a declaration of interest in a specific area.

Usdan's student body, of approximately 1,500 students, is diverse in ability, ethnicity, religion, sexuality, gender identity, age (ranging from ages 4-18, grades pre-K - 12) and geography (with students coming from New York City, Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester Counties). They are bound together by their love of the arts and by their interest in creating and expressing themselves through art. A faculty of dedicated, talented, and thoughtful teachers guide students through unforgettable summers of fun and artistic exploration.

Position Summary: Reporting to the Director of Outdoor Education, and working in collaboration with the Associate Executive Director, the Organic Gardening and Simple Food Teacher (Gardening Teacher) will plan, organize, teach and assess the 7-week Organic Gardening and Simple Food classes for students, grades 4-12, and will plan, plant, and cultivate the various vegetable, fruit and herb gardens at Usdan Summer Camp for the Arts. Planning will take place this spring and the class be taught on the Usdan campus in Huntington, Long Island, NY.

JOB REQUIREMENTS

Traits and Characteristics: The Gardening Teacher will be a passionate naturalist, educator, food enthusiast and gardener who is thoughtful, works well with children, and understands their needs in the modern world. The teacher will be organized and intentional, innovative and forward thinking, and artful and practical in their approach to gardening and cooking.



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Qualifications: The successful candidate should have:

- a bachelors degree in education or science or equivalent knowledge, skills and abilities.
- two years teaching experience with students of varying ages and abilities.
- experience planning and cultivating gardens (preferably organic) through full growing seasons. (Experience with small farm animals/fowl also useful.)
- fluency, experience, and interest in the preparation and cooking of foods of various cultures, and an understanding of the scientific and artistic principles at play in a variety of dishes.
- an ability to mobilize, inspire, and excite children.

Roles and Responsibilities: The Gardening Teacher will:

- work with the Director of Outdoor Education to create a plan and goals for the class, including project, recipe, and supply lists.
- plan, implement and cultivate the beds in Usdan's gardens before the season begins.
- teach four 50-minute (or two 100-minute) classes per day to students of varying ages and abilities.
- stay mindful of potential food and insect allergies among the students as well as other factors that might threaten a child's well-being.
- support Discovery program (Usdan's youngest students) as they explore gardening.
- foster collaboration between the gardening program and other departments on campus.
- create environments where students feel comfortable expressing their ideas and suggestions to improve the program.
- ready the gardens for the student's arrival in late June.

Salary, Dates and Times:

2016 Pre-season work:

Hourly until June, 2016 at \$20 per hour.

Location: At home and at Usdan Summer Camp for the Arts in Huntington, Long Island, NY.

2016 Summer Season

1 Day: Orientation Day, Wednesday, June 22, 2:30 PM - 8:30 PM

34 Weekdays: Monday- Friday, June 27 - August 12, 2016, 9:15 AM - 3:15 PM

Salary: \$7,600

Location: Usdan Summer Camp for the Arts in Huntington, Long Island, NY.

Additional hours may be required during the season, at the rate of \$20/hour. The Gardening Teacher, aided by an Assistant Teacher, will work mornings, late afternoons, or weekend hours during the season, as needed, to insure the proper maintenance (watering, mulching, protecting, etc.) of the gardens.

To Apply: Please email a cover letter communicating qualifications and interest, and your resume with three references, to Lauren Brandt Schloss, Executive Director to Employment@usdan.org. PDF files are preferred attachments. No phone calls.