

# Garden & Cooking Educator

## Job Description

### Food Literacy Center

#### Sacramento, California



### ***About Us:***

At Food Literacy Center, ***we inspire kids to eat their vegetables.*** Food Literacy Center came to life in July 2011 to fill a critical gap: we engage volunteers and staff to help individuals improve their knowledge, attitude, and behavior towards healthy food. Partnering with SCUSD and community partners, we teach food literacy education to 1,000 (and growing!) K-6<sup>th</sup> graders in low-income schools a week, using fun, approachable lessons teaching kids to cook, about nutrition, and where their food comes from. Our kids become food adventurers!

Why our work matters:

- Despite being America's Farm-to-Fork Capital, Sacramento has a 40% childhood obesity rate, and many students and families live in food deserts.
- Overweight kids have a 70-80% chance of staying overweight for their entire lives, and obesity disproportionately affects low-income and minority children.
- Obesity is now regarded as more damaging than smoking or drinking.
- Being overweight can negatively impact a child's self-esteem, behavior, friendships, and academic performance.
- All of these problems are preventable--if we eat our vegetables. But we have two generations of Americans who do not know how. That's where we come in.

We believe food literacy matters. Learn more about us at [www.foodliteracycenter.org](http://www.foodliteracycenter.org).

### **About this peachy position:**

This exciting role at Food Literacy Center will support our cooking school and student garden/farm at Leataata Floyd Elementary School serving 300 students a year. The Garden & Cooking Educator role is a hands-on, get your hands dirty (literally!) role designed to ensure we can provide services to our community each week. This role reports directly to the Program Manager. This role is an exciting opportunity for a results-oriented and energetic professional with a passion for inspiring kids to eat their vegetables.

### **Here's what you'll do as the Garden & Cooking Educator:**

Provide direct program support in the garden and cooking school.

- Follow curriculum and instruct garden and cooking classes.
- Assist in the implementation and collection of evaluation data.
- Assist in the scheduling and communication of school staff and afterschool programs.
- Provide appropriate training in food safety and PPE.
- Provide cooking school instruction and other direct service support as needed.
- Assist with other events and program logistics as needed.
- Other duties as assigned.

Provide day-to-day support for all farm and garden logistics and operations and cooking instruction.

- Work with farm lead to ensure appropriate production schedule and availability for upcoming curriculum needs.
- Assist with farm maintenance and tasks so that students and programs can grow, harvest, and taste local produce.
- Proactively seek ways to improve the farm to provide best-in-class experiences to students, volunteers, and community members.



- Build and maintain relationships with teachers and administrators.
- Communicate schedules, expectations and guidelines to teachers.
- Assist with volunteer work days on the farm.
- *Other duties as needed*

## **You'll exhibit these competencies:**

### ***Relationship Development & Communication:***

- Leverage existing positive relationships with internal teammates, volunteers, and community partners. Demonstrate an ability to effectively communicate with a variety of stakeholders. Show an ability to remain positive and goal-oriented in the face of competition for time and resources. Celebrate wins with all stakeholders.
- Demonstrate an ability to create and steward excellent partnerships.

### ***Problem Solving & Decision-Making:***

- Demonstrate comfort with ambiguity, and a strong ability to recognize problems, solve them quickly, and appropriately message all shifts. Demonstrate an aptitude for framing problems as opportunities and always pushing to further streamline processes.

### ***Achievement-orientation:***

- Demonstrates an ability to meet and exceed goals and expectations. Lives up to the high standard the community expects of our nonprofit, showing attention to detail. Identifies problems and seeks to solve them quickly. Has an eye for program quality and communicates ideas effectively with supervisor.

### ***Communication:***

- Demonstrate the ability to genuinely promote Food Literacy Center and our mission through a variety of modes. Provide excellent customer service to students, partners and volunteers.

### ***Positive Attitude:***

- Exudes a positive outlook and attitude, especially during stressful or difficult times. Helps maintain the joyfulness of the Food Literacy Center culture.

## **All about you!**

You'll be successful in this position if you:

- Have a deep commitment to the mission of Food Literacy Center
- Have a passion for and experience working with children.
- Are highly motivated, able to self-manage, flexible, able to multitask, and maintain the confidentiality of sensitive information
- Reflect our team's values and behaviors
- High degree of comfort with change and ambiguity
- Have an understanding or familiarity with local food, food systems, and nutrition.
- Comfortable working with animals, including daily feeding, watering, waste management, etc.
- Have a bachelor's degree or equivalent experience

Extra points if you

- Have experience working in a small, entrepreneurial, growing team
- Have experience working with food literacy
- Have experience working with nonprofits
- Have basic cooking skills. (Home cooking is OK!)



- Speak Spanish or Hmong

### **Other things to know:**

We offer a unique, healthy work culture that celebrates teamwork and vegetable eating!

- This is an at-will, non-exempt, full-time, on-site position. Compensation starts at \$19 per hour during 2024.
- Given that we are a start-up nonprofit in growth mode, a flexible schedule is necessary. This position works a Monday to Friday schedule and does require some evenings and weekends.
- You'll need to be able to lift 50 lbs of food supplies.
- This position requires you to travel throughout Sacramento, so a California driver's license is required
- We love our veggies, so a vegetable costume may be worn on occasion!
- Because food literacy is at our core, we require all employees to successfully complete Food Literacy Academy certification and become a certified food handler. Food Literacy Center will pay for and provide the resources necessary to certify you in these areas.
- Additionally, you must pass a Department of Justice background check and have a negative TB test.
- Proof of COVID vaccination is required.

### **Ready to apply? Great!**

Please submit a resume and thoughtful cover letter outlining the unique value you will bring to our organization to [evelyn@foodliteracycenter.org](mailto:evelyn@foodliteracycenter.org), subject: Garden & Cooking Educator. This position will remain open until filled. *No phone calls, please.*

*Food Literacy Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We encourage applicants of a diverse background to apply. Benefits include cell phone reimbursement, health care, and a generous PTO package.*