Suwa’lkh Program Lead

Position Location: West Coquitlam
Application Deadline: February 21; group interview March 7
Position start date: April 1st

About Fresh Roots

We believe in Good Food for All! Everyone should have access to healthy food, land, and community. We work toward this by cultivating engaging gardens and programs that catalyze healthy eating, ecological stewardship, and community celebration. Fresh Roots stewards farms and food lands on school grounds across the lower mainland. Our fields produce good food for the community, empower youth through vocational skills development, and serve as hands-on outdoor classrooms for over 5000 students each year.

The Suwa’lkh School Program

With 7 acres of forest and a salmon bearing stream, fruit tree orchard, and food production farm, this little piece of haven in the heart of commercial Coquitlam hosts an alternative school for underserved urban youth and the Aboriginal Education Department of SD43. Here we use First People’s Ways of Knowing and Being to teach our youth and create young leaders. Our programs include food production, weekly salad program, native plant propagation, forest restoration, weekly market, field trips, field classes, summer leadership program, and more!

The Position

Are you interested in food production, environmental education, and youth empowerment?
Do you get excited about growing veggies and selling them at the market? Would you like to learn how to teach youth through experiential learning methods? Would you like to help create, implement, and run a diverse set of programs with a diverse set of people?

As the Suwa’lkh Program Lead you will report to and work closely with the Suwa’lkh Project Manager. You will also work with our Plant Nursery Program Facilitators and other Fresh Roots team members to help run their programs at our site.

With the support and help of the Project Manager, you will be responsible to:

- Help implement our crop plan including seeding, transplanting, weeding, fertilizing, harvest, and documentation
- Lead youth in all activities pertaining to food production, harvest, and sales
- Run the weekly farmer’s market stand at the POCO Farmer’s Market (Starts in May)
- Help our Plant Nursery Program Facilitators with our native plant propagation program, sales, and distribution
- Help our Experiential Learning team lead Field Trips
- Facilitate curriculum-aligned programs for high-school classes using existing lesson plans
- Help create new lesson plans for use in future seasons
- Lead youth in harvesting, preparing, and serving salad for their peers
- Lead youth in forest restoration work including the removal of invasive species, and planting native plants in their place
- Help run events and other special activities in our community
Qualifications

- Experience in food production for sale
- Experience working with youth in a day camp, outdoor school, or similar setting
- Passion for farm, environmental, and/or food systems education
- Ability to teach farming/gardening and cooking skills to youth
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Experience running Farmers Market stand is an asset
- Knowledge of native plants and First Nation traditions both a huge asset
- Organized with good attention to detail
- Able to prioritize and balance many different tasks
- Able to work independently and in a small team
- Comfortable using and learning new technology, including Google Suite
- Physically able and happy to work outdoors in all conditions for up to 8 hours a day
- Driver’s License required
- Able to pass a criminal record check
- Must meet Canada Summer Jobs Requirements

Key Details

- Pay rate $16.50-$18.50 per hour, DOE.
- ~500 hours from April through July
  - Full time (35 hours/week)
- Farmer’s Market starts in May and runs from 3-7pm on Thursdays, with wrap up usually ending at the Suwa’lkh site around 8:00pm

How to Apply

E-mail a short cover letter (500 words) and resume as one document to jobs@freshroots.ca with your name and Suwa’lkh Program Lead in the subject.

Fresh Roots is committed to employment equity and encourages applications from underrepresented groups.

We regret that due to the high volume of applicants only those selected for interviews will be contacted.