

Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association Nature Camps Assistant

Mentor

Natasha Friedmann – VBGA Youth Programs Assistant Manager

Position Location

5251 Oak Street, Vancouver, BC V6M 4H1

Hours and Credits options:

- 3 months at ~9 hours per week (total of 117 hours) for 3 credits
 - 3 months at ~18 hours per week (total of 234 hours) for 6 credits
- *we will work with the student to establish start/end dates and a weekly schedule*

Course Background

The Career Development Course aims to engage UBC students with their local food system and create opportunities to experience the working environment of a food sustainability focused organization. Students work alongside their mentor, food systems practitioners, and faculty to increase their understanding and knowledge of food systems work, from organic agriculture to food production methods, food-focused community engagement, and business management.

Organization Background

The Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association (VBGA) and the City of Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation (Park Board) are joint operating partners for VanDusen Botanical Garden and Bloedel Conservatory. The Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association (VBGA) is a charitable not-for-profit, incorporated under the BC Societies Act. Our mission is to engage people of all ages and walks of life in the importance of biodiversity to our lives, and to foster a lifelong love of plants and gardens by virtue of their participation in our programs and services. While the Park Board oversees the Gardens facilities and collections, VBGA is responsible for education, volunteers, membership and fundraising. Learn more at <https://vandusengarden.org/>

Position Details

Camps at VanDusen Botanical Garden are designed with a carefully crafted blend of science, exploration, games, and crafts that gives children the opportunity to learn and play throughout the 55-acre property, while fostering positive stewardship of the environment and an appreciation for the outdoors. As a Nature Camps Assistant, you will plan and deliver agriculture, gardening, and food-themed activities for groups of campers attending VBGA Camps programs. Additionally, you will assist the Youth Programs Assistant Manager with administrative duties pertaining to various camps running from May through August to ensure smooth operations.

Specific Duties

The Nature Camps Assistant student will perform the following main tasks:

May and June

- Work under the supervision of the Youth Programs Assistant Manager to develop 30-60 minute interactive and age-appropriate presentations and activities for groups approximately 24 campers ages 5-7 or 7-10 that align with themes such as agriculture, gardening, and/or food life cycles.
- Assist with the delivery of educational content for Pollinator Days Field Trip Festival on May 29th-31st, in collaboration with Education Department staff and Summer Camp Leaders.
- Liase with Camp Leaders and the Teaching Garden Coordinator to develop a deeper understanding of the camp/program planning process and how to integrate gardening, agriculture, and food-related content into their own lessons and activities.

July and August

- Deliver the planned weekly presentations for campers attending Summer Camps, as scheduled by the Youth Programs Assistant Manager.
- Assist Camp Leaders and the Youth Programs team with gathering and preparing program materials.
- Compile, organize, digitize, and file camp documents such as waivers, attendance forms, surveys, etc., with templates and guidance from the Youth Programs Assistant Manager

Learning Goals

- Organizational skills
- Research skills
- Interpretive/presentation skills
- Educational programming skills
- Communicating with children

Experience & Qualifications

- Must be a UBC student intending to register for LFS 496 for Summer 2024 (May-August)
- Must pass a criminal record check for working with children and vulnerable populations
- Interest in and willingness to learn about urban farming, community education, and nonprofits
- Education and/or experience in gardening, farming, cooking, ecology, or related fields preferred
- Experience with Google Suite, Microsoft Suite, and Social Media platforms
- Willing to work outdoors in all weather conditions
- Able to follow policies and procedures to ensure participant and staff health and safety
- Flexible to travel to VanDusen Botanical Garden on Oak Street for each scheduled shift

How to Apply

Please submit your resume and short cover letter to: nfriedmann@vandusen.org

All applications should clearly refer to the “LFS 496 Career Development Course” when applying