

Vida Verde Farmer & Goat Herd Manager Job Description 2012



MISSION STATEMENT

Vida Verde is a nonprofit that promotes educational equity by providing free, overnight, environmental learning experiences for students who don't otherwise get the opportunity.

Vida Verde is a mission driven organization that provides all of its programs free of charge to low-income/underserved 4th-6th graders. V.V. is a small org. with a strong reputation in the Bay Area. The Gardener and Goat Herd Manager Position is a new position, and will involve some planning and design of the new garden space.

This is a 22-hour/week, part-time position

Overview & Objective: To create & maintain learning opportunities for Vida Verde's students through the creation and maintenance of an organic garden and the care of the goat herd, in order to support the mission of the organization.

Farmer Responsibilities

- Plan weekly projects for kids and coordinate with Vida Verde staff on Mondays
- Grow organic fruit and vegetables in an approx. 1/2 acre garden. The produce will be used in the weekly Vida Verde youth program and will also be shared by the Vida Verde staff.
- Help create an inviting and fun space for children
- Maintain the garden and greenhouse area so that it is aesthetically pleasing and tidy for kids and adults alike
- Order seeds and maintain records and a budget
- Help prepare for and host donor tours through the garden
- Maintain all tools
- Manage greenhouse and watering
- Help facilitate the students' visit to the garden each week

- Give staff ideas for student (small group) projects in the garden for Thursday mornings
- Capture and record all systems for future gardeners
- Manage pests, especially gophers, deer, birds, raccoons and insects

Goat Herd Manager

- Take responsibility for the goat herd
- Milk the goats on many days: some as scheduled, some filling in
- Manage the milking team: organize weekly milking schedule, train new milkers, check in with milkers periodically, send necessary emails to milkers
- Give weekly herbal medication
- Buy and maintain feed supply
- Clean goat house weekly
- Trim hooves monthly
- Manage breeding schedule
- Care for and raise goat kids
- Maintain fencing
- Move electric fence to allow for occasional browsing

Qualifications of a strong applicant

- Two or more seasons working on an organic farm
- Experience handling, milking, and raising goats
- Outdoor education work experience
- Experience working with low-income populations
- Desire to work in a values-driven nonprofit organization
- Love of the outdoors, teaching & children
- Positive attitude, excited by the mission, committed to excellence
- Versatile and organized
- Handy, great communicator, full of integrity

Compensation

- \$300/month stipend
- Shared private housing on site. Kitchen and bathroom/shower are detached
- Shared food from the garden, eggs from the chickens, milk from the goats
- Pro deals (Ibex, North Face, Chaco, Mountain Hardware)

Site: The education garden and goats are located at 3540 La Honda Road, San Gregorio, CA 94074. This is a 25-acre property along the San Gregorio Creek, 1 hour from San Francisco and 45 minutes from Santa Cruz. The nearest town is Half Moon Bay, which is 15 miles away.

Application Procedure/Timeline:

Send letter of interest, resume, and references (email preferred)

Position open until filled

Start date: asap

to: Laura Sears, Vida Verde Nature Education

3540 La Honda Road, San Gregorio, CA

phone: 650-747-9288 email: info@Vveducation.org website: www.Vveducation.org

Continued on

page 3 ↓

Values of Vida Verde:

1. **Mission Driven**: We are passionately dedicated to meeting the powerful mission. We make every decision with the kids' benefit, the environment, and the mission as our guide.
Vida Verde is a nonprofit that promotes educational equity by providing free, overnight environmental learning experiences for students who don't otherwise get the opportunity.
2. **Excellence**: We hold ourselves to a very high standard: from program quality to outward image to communication and everything in between. We are detail oriented and thorough.
3. **Smart Organization**: Vida Verde is organized & efficient. We capitalize on strengths, do the work that suits us best, and consult with experts when needed. We strategically plan for the short and long term to ensure sustainability.
4. **Relationships/Community**: Vida Verde is a small organization that is accessible and creates long-lasting relationships with its staff, supporters, students & teachers.
5. **"Make it Happen"**: If we value it, we go for it, despite obstacles. We don't hesitate to go above and beyond. We use resources creatively.
6. **Trailblazing**: Vida Verde is innovative, entrepreneurial, fun and exciting. It's a crossroads where urban culture meets the rural and natural environment.
7. **Positivity**: ...begets positivity! We work together with each other and the greater community, focusing on the great, in order to create more great.

*Vida Verde is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, age, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, disability, medical condition, marital status, or veteran status. People of color and individuals from diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply.