

# JOB OPENING

# Vida Verde Summer Caretaker

Seasonal, Part-Time: 16hrs/week \*\*Work-Trade for Housing Position



Educational Equity in the *Outdoors*

## 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.

## ABOUT THE ORG

Vida Verde has a long history of achieving remarkable results through high-quality programs delivered free of charge for 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Students interact in the outdoors with their peers and teachers, and they engage in activities meant to nurture positive interpersonal connections, instill a sense of belonging and connection to the natural world, and offer exposure to new and exciting environments and ideas. We are a small, tightly-knit, and exciting organization. Our jobs are the BEST, and so are the people who work here!

With equity as a cornerstone of Vida Verde's mission, our entire staff intentionally and actively engages in Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) work. We understand and agree that this work is critical in helping young people access high-quality, culturally relevant and inclusive nature education experiences; experiences that will translate into positive outcomes in their traditional classrooms.

(read our full JEDI statement below)

**Position Overview:** This is a seasonal, **16-hour/week, part-time, Work-trade for housing position** It's important to note that we are looking for folks who can commit to the full 16 hours per week over the entire duration of the summer. This position reports to the Facilities Team Manager (FTM). The Facilities Team includes the Executive Director, FTM, Assistant Farmer (AF), Caretakers, Volunteers, and Contracted Technicians. As the Summer Caretaker, you will work collaboratively with the rest of the team to maintain & improve our three sites, located in rural San Gregorio, California. This includes a ¼ acre organic garden with annual row crops, small-scale orchard, office buildings, dairy goats, chickens, pastures, animal shelter structures, landscaping, staff homes, and vehicles. You will help work towards Vida Verde's mission by maintaining functional and beautiful spaces for our educational programs, staff, and community.

**Term of Volunteering: Exact Start/End Dates TBD,** (Expected term: June 10th through August 9th, 2024)

## **WORK REQUIREMENTS**

### **Responsibilities:**

- work outside on the farm, weeding, watering, planting, trapping gophers,
- milk the goats, collect chicken eggs, clean the coop & stalls, purchase feed and town errands
- trash & recycling duties
- vehicle & hot tub maintenance
- mowing & landscaping, plant and trail maintenance
- painting
- miscellaneous tasks here there and everywhere to keep our camp in good shape for the campers
- communicate with the FTM on progress and questions

### **Must Haves:**

- Physical stamina to perform difficult tasks for multiple hours
- Ability to lift 50lbs to chest height
- Ability to squat, stoop, stand and perform repetitive motions for extended periods of time
- Ability to receive and respond to directions, written and spoken, in the English language
- Ability to work weekend shifts on rotating basis with other Caretakers (0.5-1.5hrs/shift)
- Ability to receive and give feedback in a way that demonstrates respect for your peers and supervisors
- Skillful at working both independently and as part of a team
- Enjoy working outdoors
- Positive Attitude, organized, with an attention-to-detail
- Enthusiasm or experience leading and or working with students and volunteers
- Comfort and/or excitement in working with goats/chickens
- Non-Expired CA Driver's License

### **Bonus Qualifications:** *Candidates w/ the following skills/experience will be given additional consideration*

- Experience successfully growing food or managing a garden
- Animal Husbandry Experience
- Light Carpentry – skill w/ power tools
- Vehicle maintenance experience
- Site Maintenance experience (repairing fencing, pest control, irrigation, animal husbandry, vehicles, farm tools, well systems etc.)

### **Compensation:**

- This is a 16 hour/week, part-time role in exchange for housing. For the right applicant, in addition to the work trade for housing, paid hours may be available, at a rate of \$18.00/hour. Working these extra hours is *neither guaranteed nor required* while working as a summer caretaker.
- Large private bedroom with closet, storage space, washer/dryer, and a shared living room/kitchen (possibly detached).
- When available, shared food from the garden, eggs from the chickens, milk from the goats.
- Access to community hot tub, trail, and creek in a secluded rural setting near the coast just 45 minutes-1 hour's drive from San Francisco and Santa Cruz.

**Site:** Vida Verde's farm site is located at 3540 La Honda Road, San Gregorio, CA 94074. This is a 25-acre property nestled along San Gregorio Creek, 1 hour from San Francisco, 45 minutes from Santa Cruz, and 5 minutes from the coast. The nearest town is Half Moon Bay, which is 15 miles away.

### **Application Procedure**

Send resume and 3 references by **EMAIL ONLY**

To:

Shawn Sears at [shawn@vveducation.org](mailto:shawn@vveducation.org)

Seth Solwell at [seth@vveducation.org](mailto:seth@vveducation.org)

Paula Alves at [paula@vveducation.org](mailto:paula@vveducation.org)

[www.Vveducation.org/jobs](http://www.Vveducation.org/jobs)

**Position Open until filled**

## **JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion) Statement**

### **We Acknowledge That:**

Everything is not okay.

We live in a world and society with personal, structural, and institutional injustice based on race, gender, sexual orientation, and other differences. This is affecting the lives of the Vida Verde students and the Vida Verde community in myriad profound ways.

### **We See Our Role As:**

We have a deep commitment to examining, understanding, and working intentionally, every day, and for the long run to do our small part in dismantling the pieces of institutional injustice that we are able to. Vida Verde is one of the few outdoor education organizations that is focused on educational equity, and is dedicated to engaging Bay Area youth from low income families and communities who do not have free access to outdoor education experiences.

Even though equity is a cornerstone of Vida Verde's mission, intentionally and actively engaging in Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) work more holistically will only continue to support these young people in accessing quality culturally relevant and inclusive nature education experiences that translate to positive outcomes in their traditional classrooms. Why?

Culturally relevant outdoor programs better engages students, and supports them in developing necessary critical thinking skills, improving their health and wellness, and more meaningfully connecting them to the land and food, and often fostering a passion and interest in the outdoors.

The future of the environment is tethered to connecting the diverse youth of today to the outdoors. Research shows diversity in staff, an inclusive workplace culture, and culturally responsive practices lead to both better experiences and outcomes for students, and better attraction and retention of talented staff.

Vida Verde aspires to serve as a blueprint/model for other values-aligned organizations (especially outdoor education organizations) who are looking for an example north star in JEDI work.

### **Our Vision:**

We envision a future where all people have access to quality experiences in the outdoors, which have the power to profoundly impact hearts, minds and bodies.

### **Our Commitments:**

- To steadfastly work toward our mission to promote educational equity by providing culturally relevant, free, overnight, environmental learning experiences for students who don't otherwise get the opportunity.
- Through culturally relevant programming, work to ensure Vida Verde students view nature as a place FOR them; a place they have a fundamental right to access, and a place that may influence them as leaders to vote, act and spend with the environment in mind.
- To build and grow a more racially diverse staff and board, and foster an inclusive culture within Vida Verde where all staff, donors and volunteers feel they are valued and belong.
- To serve as a blueprint/model for other values-aligned organizations (especially outdoor Education organizations) who are looking for an example in JEDI work.

## **Values of Vida Verde**

### **The Mission First**

We are a mission-centric organization. We make every decision with the kids' benefit and the mission as our guide. We specifically tailor the program to meet the unique needs of the kids we serve, with deep respect for students and their communities.

### **Persistent Improvement and Our Best Practices**

We are driven to continually improve and reach the highest standards across the organization for the benefit of the kids we serve. From program quality to healthy communication, from strategic goal setting to prioritization: we are detail-oriented, reflective, and strive to serve as a model. We balance our best practices and lessons from our history with innovation and inspiration for improvement.

### **The Environment and Natural Resources**

We practice responsible and long-term thinking regarding land stewardship facility management, building, and design. Using resources wisely, we value the earth's resources over convenience and cost, and share that value with the greater community.

### **Relationships and Community**

People are at the heart of this work. We strive to create long-lasting relationships with our staff, supporters, students, and teachers. We believe that by honoring and including diverse perspectives, our organization is stronger and more sustainable. We believe in love, not hate. We help different people see each other and all that we share in common, as well as what we can learn from each other.

### **Making It Happen**

We overcome outrageous obstacles and successfully achieve ambitious goals by using a combination of resourcefulness, a positive mindset, and our team's diverse set of skills and experiences, without compromising our work/life balance and well-being. We know that beliefs lead to actions, which lead to results. We "make it happen" even when circumstances would lead most to think progress impossible