Environmental Studies

Assignment Description Form

Organization/Agency: Calabasas Elementary School Garden Projects
Supervisor/Sponsor: Lidia Tropeano Supervisor/Sponsor title: UCSC Internship Coordinator
Address: 202 Calabasas Rd, Watsonville CA 95076 Email: lidiafropeano@gmail.com
Phone: 707-299-7744 Fax: Website:
https://calabasaselementarycommunitygarden.wordpress.com/

# of interns needed/Hours worked per intern: Needed for quarters: Options (choose one)

X 8/6-10 Fall Winter Remove your listing by ___
X Spring Summer ___ Or keep on file for one year

Describe the internship assignment: Brief statement about the agency; role of the intern and specific objectives of the projects assigned to the intern; tasks to be performed.

Thank you for your interest in Calabasas Elementary School garden program! This program is a wonderful opportunity to work with youth, promote educational equity, undertake experiential learning for social justice, and promote food security and justice in a low-income, people of color community in Watsonville. This year UCSC is continuing to build our relationship with Calabasas through garden education in the after school program and collaboration with the families to establish a community garden on site. There are several different ways to get involved, 1) helping out in the after school garden program teaching environmental education and working with the youth 2) those who are interested in gardening can spearhead projects such as rebuilding the greenhouse, irrigation/rain water catchment systems, compost and creating an observation station in the garden 3) those who are interested in getting involved with the community will prepare, plan and facilitate parent evenings with the families of Calabasas Elementary to discuss next steps for the community garden and outreach to donors in the area 4) Social media intern who will work on the website, create and manage facebook, instagram, flickr, etc. 5) Research assistant, an intern who is interested in diving into food and environmental justice research and honing in on their skills in literature reviews and annotated bibliographies. 2 and 5 unit credit is available! Please contact Lidia Tropeano asap to discuss your interests and experiences relevant to the internship.

Prerequisites: Outline the skills and background information necessary to participate in this internship.

We are interested in all passionate interns! Those who are knowledgeable in organic gardening, have a proficiency in Spanish have taken relevant coursework in environmental studies, Latin America and Latino Studies, and Sociology are encouraged to apply!
Spring 2015 Calabasas Elementary After School Garden Internship Positions

After-school Garden Enrichment Environmental Educators (2-4)

*Tuesday and Thursday from 1-4pm and Wednesday from 11am-2pm

Interns will be expected to prep for lessons, teach activities in the garden, throughout the quarter we will be working on new curriculum. This is a wonderful opportunity for students who are interested in working with youth, sharing their passion for organic gardening and sustainable food systems.

Garden Interns (2-4)

*Previous knowledge and experience in organic gardening and relevant coursework encouraged but not required.

Seed saving: Calabasas Elementary after school garden program is trying to create and sustain our seed library! This project will involve organizing and labeling all of the seeds we harvested this past year. I will help you identify the seeds and we will need to look some up (those bean seeds can be tricky!). The seeds we will save for next year will be stored in airtight jars and the rest will be individually packaged to sell to the students in the garden store. Supplies needed: jars with lids (I purchased coin envelopes for making and selling our seeds). Reading material might include information on heirloom seed varieties, open pollination, hybrid and GMO seeds to expand your knowledge on the importance of saving pure seed!

Compost: I am excited for you to learn about the wonderful world of compost! Success in the garden BEGINS with healthy, living soil! The system in the school garden really needs some love and attention! This job will entail organizing with PICA to get materials to start the compost pile. I will be providing you with resources on how to build and help maintain the piles so that it is productive and we can be making beautiful soil for our garden! Once this project is underway you can even help the vermicompost (smaller scale with worms) get started and if you’re really stoked about compost you can facilitate a group in the garden during our soil week! Supplies needed: bi-sift, greens, browns, food scraps and manure (straw would be awesome too but we can use a tarp). We have started collecting scraps from snack time and may need your help keeping a student team organized to do this every day. It would also be great if we started saving our food scraps at home (for those of us who generate food scraps) to bring to Calabasas since we don’t get much from the school. Reading material will include information on how to make and maintain a compost pile!

Greenhouse: The projects for the greenhouse include establishing an automated watering system, general maintenance, organizing and cleaning up the space (those darn weeds do grow fast in that place!), and creatively utilizing the space (vertically?) to hang/dry seeds and harvests. Your tasks will include keeping track of plants in the greenhouse that will be transplanted into the garden as well as planting seeds into the milk carton containers that the students will be able to buy in the garden store. Supplies needed: seeds and soil. You can coordinate with the seed librarian and compost :) and also talk to me about what seeds we should plant depending on the season. Reading material can include a general overview of the need for a greenhouse in the garden and information on when to plant certain crops based on the season. Golden Gate gardening is a great resource!
**Automated Watering/Water Coordinator:** connect the current hose timer to also reach all the fence lines, greenhouse, and back “native” beds. Help us conserve and best utilize water. **LONG TERM:** Rain catch system???

**Community Outreach Interns (2)**
*Those proficient in Spanish encouraged to apply!

**Parent Evenings Coordinator:** This task will include working with me to organize a parent evening before winter break to discuss next steps and visioning for the community garden project on site at Calabasas Elementary School. Your tasks include helping with publicity such as making an English and Spanish flyer for the event. Help work on breakout group discussion questions, agenda, help facilitate the evening and assist in transcribing the notes from the evening (this is a big job and I can get you more help with this when the time comes!) Supplies needed: I can help you coordinate the event we will probably want to have food because that makes everyone happy! No additional reading is necessary since the assigned reading to the group with tie into the work with the families and planning for this event. If you are interested in more literature/inspiration about community gardens I would be happy to send something your way!

**Outreach to Donors:** This intern will be responsible for connecting with local businesses and community agencies seeking donations for the school and community garden projects. This interns will also gain experience in grant writing. Having financial support is important in moving forward with any grassroots and non-profit campaign, this experience is beneficial for those who see themselves working in these sectors post grad.

**Social Media Intern (1)**

**Website and Social Media Intern:** This project will work on creating the website for the garden projects at Calabasas Elementary. By uploading photos and blog posts by the interns people will be able to get an inside perspective of the working and transformation of the gardens. The site is also a space to document the work on the community garden by uploading information about meetings, proposal updates, photos and even sharing recipes from the community members once we start breaking ground and talking more about culturally significant food. Supplies needed: I have a document on how to access and change the information on the website that has been created. I will also be able to contribute some documents to the site and get in touch with past interns who can upload their journal entries and experience at Calabasas Elementary.

**Research Assistant (1)**
Looking for an enthusiastic students who is interested in food and environmental justice research who can make relevant searches, write annotated bibliographies and is interested in working on a literature review. Great experience for those who are passionate about applying research and theory to local community case studies such as Calabasas Elementary School in Watsonville, CA.