



## Lead Farmer

### Classified Position

**Initial Date:** December 10, 2021

**Board Approval:** February 1, 2022

**Personnel Commission:** January 19, 2022

**Range:** 48

**Reports to:** Director of Student Nutrition

### **DESCRIPTION OF BASIC FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Under general supervision of the Director of Student Nutrition, performs technical tasks and duties within the Freight Farm and with other farming initiatives that require specialized training related to planting, growing, and harvesting of hydroponic and other crops for the purpose of providing hyper-local food sources for the Student Nutrition program. This position requires skill in organizing, planning, scheduling, and delivering food products in close coordination with the operations and menu planning of the Student Nutrition Department. This position receives limited supervision and requires the ability to communicate the purpose, schedule, implementation of the farm program with site personnel across the District, including being a resource for student educational programs related to farming and nutrition.

### **REPRESENTATIVE DUTIES:**

- Responsible for overseeing the Freight Farm and other farming initiatives, as assigned, including: planting, cultivating, monitoring growth of food crops, inspecting quality, harvesting, and reporting areas of concern to the Director of Student Nutrition.
- Works with Director of Student Nutrition with short and long term organizing and planning of crops to ensure coordination with calendar of operations and menu services for students
- Maintains inventory control, requisitions necessary parts and supplies, and assists with maintaining the overall budget of the farming operations
- Performs minor and routine maintenance related to the hydroponics system, including plumbing and electrical
- Maintains clean and organized areas of the Freight Farm, adhering to guidelines for a pesticide-free environment; for outdoor farming areas, works with site personnel to create crop guidelines and farming safety protocols; cleans and maintains facilities including but not limited to; sweeping , power washing and picking up debris
- Operates and performs maintenance on tools and related equipment
- Performs loading and hauling including but not limited to equipment and grounds supplies
- Performs watering audits including watering schedules and setting and adjusting irrigation and necessary nutritional additives, including monitoring the hydroponics system remotely via the app
- Prepares reports for the Director of Student Nutrition, as requested, regarding growth patterns, production, costs, incidents, sustainability, and other matters
- Operates District delivery vehicles, forklifts, and other warehouse tools and equipment
- Delivers harvested farm items, as well as any other food items, to school sites as scheduled
- Maintains a variety of records and logs related to deliveries
- Performs routine maintenance and servicing of vehicle including cleaning and adding gasoline, oil, and other fluids, reporting incidents or the need for repairs and servicing directly to the Director of Student Nutrition
- As requested by the Director of Student Nutrition, may serve as a District representative to community or educational forums related to hyper-local farming, sustainability, and student-centered food programs
- As requested by the Director of Student Nutrition, may work directly with students and educational programs related to the growth of crops in the Freight Farm and outdoor farms
- As needed and requested by the Director of Student Nutrition, may be assigned to perform duties within the central kitchen, including loading, unloading, preparing, and serving food

- Performs other related duties similar to the above in scope and functions, as assigned

### **KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES:**

- Knowledge and ability to maintain hydroponic farming and its computer-based, Internet dependent system
- Ability to plan and execute a tightly controlled schedule of crops, calculating planting, cultivating, harvesting, and delivery of requested food items
- Knowledge of methods and supplies used in hydroponics planting, cultivating and harvesting or ability to learn these methods
- Ability to maintain spreadsheets with estimates of labor and material costs
- Ability to work in a highly autonomous capacity in a confined shipping container for sustained periods of time
- Ability to trouble-shoot and repair electrical and plumbing systems related to the Freight Farm and other farm initiatives
- Ability to work effectively and safely around students and exercise good judgment and due caution in the performance of assigned duties
- Ability to present, as needed, to various stakeholders on hyper-local farming, sustainability, and Student Nutrition education initiatives
- Knowledge of safety principles related to maintenance and equipment including safe use and storage of all chemicals and other farming supplies
- Knowledge of safe operation and usage of tools, equipment, appropriate facility safety
- Ability to communicate clearly and effectively to establish and maintain strong working relationships with site personnel across the District
- Ability to learn more advanced and innovative farming methods related but not limited to water conservation, land management, hydroponics, and sustainability

### **EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:**

- High school diploma or equivalent is required
- Three (3) years of experience, background, or demonstrated interest in food preparation, production, and sustainable farming is desired
- Two (2) years of experience with demonstrated success in trouble-shooting and problem-solving in a formal or informal leadership capacity

### **LICENSES AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS:**

- Requires a valid California driver's license
- May require pre-employment physical examination

### **WORKING CONDITIONS:**

#### ENVIRONMENT:

- Indoors and outdoors
- Temperature-normal climate, occasional adverse weather conditions

#### PHYSICAL DEMANDS:

- Moderate to high stress level
- Moderate to strenuous physical effort including lifting up to 60 pounds
- Standing, sitting, and/or walking for extended periods
- Reaching overhead, above the shoulders and horizontally, bending at the waist, kneeling, crouching, pushing, pulling, twisting, turning, climbing ladders
- Dexterity of hand and fingers to operate tools and equipment;
- Seeing to perform duties

- Hearing, speaking, and reading to exchange information and working with and around equipment

**HAZARDS:**

- Chemical exposure, gasoline, oil, solvents
- Occasional exposure to dust, fumes, gasses, odors, blood borne pathogens and feces
- Occasional exposure to noise and vibrations

**EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS:**

Dexterity and physical condition to maintain a rigorous work schedule and meet standards of physical and mental health. To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. Reasonable accommodation may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions of the position. Individuals must maintain a professional attitude and appearance.