

Serpentine Community Garden Society (SCGS)

Freelance contract, Programme Coordinator

Background

SCGS <https://www.serpentinecommunitygarden.org/> is seeking an enthusiastic and dynamic person to design and deliver a programme of learning activities for 11-14 year olds, with the support of SCGS trustees and other volunteers. **Give Peas a Chance** is a project funded by the Cadent Foundation <https://cadentgas.com/cadent-foundation-about> with the aim of introducing new generations to the power of horticulture for health and wellbeing, sustainability and social cohesion.

Young people will be excited and inspired by what they experience and learn. They will gain skills in horticulture and transferable abilities such as confidence, team working and communication. Their enthusiasm will influence friends and families: peers, siblings, parents and grandparents, broadcasting the seeds of a local initiative with much wider impact.

The 3.5 hour sessions will be held on consecutive Saturdays, launching in April 2021, subject to easing of Covid-19 movement restrictions. The young people will be supervised by the Programme Coordinator and mentored by experienced volunteers with expertise in growing, education and community engagement.

- 10 week Saturday programme starting in April 2021 (with a Y7, Y8 or Y9 group from Buxton Community College)
- 10 week Saturday programme starting in September 2021 (with a second group from Buxton Community College)
- 10 week Saturday programme from April 2022 (with a Y7, Y8 or Y9 group from St Thomas More Catholic School).

In addition to horticulture, the activities – including, but not limited to, plant identification, observational drawing and creative writing – should engage young people with the growing environment. The young people should be encouraged to spend time slowing down and focusing on details, listening, exploring texture and smell. They should be encouraged to share their experiences with their peers in person and via social media networks. Each session will begin with ‘green gym’ warm-ups and will include a nutritious plant based lunch prepared by the young people under supervision.

Fee and payment

The total fee for this contract (design & delivery) is £4,150 – based on an hourly rate of £25. Payment schedule will be agreed between the successful candidate and the trustees.

The successful candidate will demonstrate the following skills and experience:

- Enthusiasing and engaging young people as learners
- Developing and delivering learning activities and resources in outdoor settings using a range of interpretive techniques
- Evaluating programmes and contributing to ongoing improvement
- Building partnerships with schools or other organisations involved in learning outside the classroom
- Promoting and marketing learning activities

Tenders should include:

- Detailed statement of experience of similar projects
- Method Statement describing programming ideas
- Contact details of organisations from whom a reference may be sought.

| Freelancer requirements | |
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| Essential | Desirable |
| General | |
| <p>Excellent with people, flexible and responsive to diverse needs</p> <p>Able to work comfortably with a range of ages, backgrounds and abilities</p> <p>An enthusiastic communicator</p> <p>Self-motivated and able to show initiative and enterprise</p> <p>Able to work independently and in a small team</p> <p>Highly organised and efficient</p> <p>Experience as an educator working with secondary age pupils</p> | <p>An interest in or experience of horticulture</p> <p>An interest in access in outdoor settings and experience of working with young people with a range of needs</p> <p>Working with volunteers</p> |
| Skills | |
| <p>An excellent communicator both verbal and in writing</p> <p>An efficient organiser with a creative approach to problem solving</p> <p>Familiar with basic gardening tools and techniques</p> <p>Use of web and social media for promotion and communication</p> | <p>Creating learning resources, such as activity sheets</p> |
| Experience | |
| <p>Creating and delivering learning events and activities in outdoor settings</p> <p>Collaborating with learners from diverse communities and interest groups</p> <p>Working in partnership with schools or other educational organisations</p> <p>Risk assessment, health & safety, safeguarding children and vulnerable adults</p> | <p>Marketing and promoting learning events and activities</p> <p>Evaluating learning activities</p> |

To apply, for further information or to discuss the contract please email:
serpentinecommunitygarden@gmail.com

Closing date for applications: 30 November 2020