



Program for Visiting Schools (PVS) Forestry Farmer Teacher Job Description

Our Program for Visiting Schools is the centerpiece of The Farm School. Each school year, over 1,500 children come to help us care for our farm during 3-day visits. The students come with their classes, in groups of up to 40 children at once. While on the farm, students find the magic and value that comes from being with the land, working together and experiencing first hand what it means to be stewards of the earth within their communities.

The Role

The Forestry Farmer Teacher works in partnership with the Forestry/Draft Animal Teamster/ Manager. The Forestry Farmer Teacher leads the youth through every aspect of trail maintenance and creation, wood splitting, maple sugaring, mushroom cultivation, reading the forest, youth hikes, felling, bucking and the milling lumber. This role also offers Farmer Teachers the ability to learn and engage in Draft Animal operations to bring trees out of the forest to the mill and to assist in food crop cultivation.

This role is well suited for those that can engage youth in the moment at hand, have a sense of playfulness, can balance having a clear direction while maintaining flexibility on how to get there.

Core Responsibilities

- To bring various aspects of your nature based hobbies and other interests into your work and to share these as you would like among the youth and farmer teachers.
- To organize your work area, plans and programs in ways that keep youths ability to engage in splitting wood, operating the saw mill, trail maintenance, driving draft animals and building an appreciation for the land.
- To be energized by a full day working alongside youth grades 5th to 12th in all Program Operations
- Ability to work outside through all 4 seasons with longer work days in winter during maple sugaring season
- Holding the Maple Sugaring production from Jan/Feb to late March requires collection and boiling of sap for long days which will be offset in the summer months of June through August.
- Ability to work within a schedule that has multiple transitions
- To be reliable in meeting your scheduled commitments and in your communication when changes or support is needed
- Participate in weekly programmatic activities including options, class, chores, dish clean up, evening activities, community meetings, opening and closing circles
- Experience with chainsaws, wood splitters, saw mills and tractors are a plus Experience with draft animals, horse or oxen is a plus

Interpersonal Skills

- A genuine interest in forest, woods and draft animals
- Kindness, a team player with a genuine enthusiasm for sharing things you love with youth
- An openness to various ways of being with land and knowledge of food systems/history
- A passion for working with youth in all aspects of the PVS program including doing dishes, playing games and providing farm tours.
- To be thoughtful, respectful, dependable, collaborative in your interactions with youth, recognizing their value, autonomy and personhood
- Flexibility, operating within a shifting schedule, pivoting as farm/youth needs arise to best host the group and take care of the land
- Reliable with an ability to work within a schedule that has multiple transitions and independently keep track of your daily shifting responsibilities
- Dependable with an ability to prioritize, work efficiently and ask for help when needed.

- Ability to work collaboratively and participate in team meetings at the start and end of each week.
- Responsive to slack, email communications in a timely manner.

Community Based Responsibilities

- Participate in a rotation of weekend chores across the farm
- Participate in weekly staff logistical meetings and participate in the facilitation and note taking rotation
- Participate in all Trainings, All-Staff Meetings including those on Race and Equity Within Communities
- Participate in facilitation and preparation of FS fundraising and community events
- Participate in all hands on deck activities like harvest, sap collection and bringing in the hay.

HR Based Responsibilities

- Remain current on CPR/First Aid and Food Safety certifications in collaboration with the Program Director
- Participate in feedback, check-ins and reviews as scheduled
- Read the FS Handbook & Conflict Resolution Protocols and use them as resources when necessary

In addition to your particular position, the unpredictable nature of farming/working with youth and our shared responsibility for the care of the farm requires that all employees engage in the process of meeting the needs of the farm/program- gardens, fields, forest, barns, bunkhouses, kitchens etc. and to do so in communication with your Program Director, Co-Directors and fellow farmer/teachers.

Timing of job:

Immediate opening: This is a year long position which includes a 7 week summer youth program. February to November (9 months of the year) your schedule can begin as early as 6:15 and end as late as 7:30 pm. December and January schedules are reduced and farmer teachers take vacations during the months of December, January, February, June and August.

Compensation and Benefits include:

- \$38,000 to \$40,000 starting annual salary
- Employer Paid Health Insurance coverage/contribution (employee paid dental option)
- Relocation Benefits (up to \$1000)
- Professional development funds
- 6 days sick time
- 6 weeks of paid vacation annually (to be taken during designated blocks of non-program)
- On-site housing provided (as available)
- 3 meals and 2 snacks a day during our programs (prepared by our talented nourishment team)
- Farm School produced food, including eggs, meat, milk, veggies, herbs, bread and maple syrup!

Please send a cover letter and resume to jobs@farmschool.org with Forestry Team and your last name in the subject line. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position(s) are filled.

We serve diverse communities of students and we are striving to develop a staff that reflects that. We encourage all qualified candidates to apply to our open positions. The Farm School does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, sex, sexual orientation, or national or ethnic origin in any of its school administered policies or programs.