**Classroom in Bloom**

**Garden Assistant Practicum**

Salary: $14.49 per hour, 24 hours/week for 10 weeks

Supervisor: Kim Romain-Bondi

Period of Employment: June 21 – August 26, 2022

**Overview**

Classroom in Bloom (CiB) is a non-profit organization established to enrich education through our school garden for K-12 students in the Methow Valley School District (MVSD) of Okanogan County, WA. Our vision is to “connect children to sustainably grown food and the natural world to support the health of our people, place and planet”. The centerpiece of our effort is a student-led garden on the MVSD campus where we provide garden education to K-12th grade students. Through this garden we create experiential, inquiry-based learning opportunities and teach a curriculum based on ecosystem complexity, biodiversity, and science education. We cultivate an understanding of sustainable food systems and foster a love of fresh and healthful foods. This collaborative, hands-on approach to learning builds self-esteem and develops personal responsibility for each child, greatly improves student engagement, and creates new opportunities for every type of learner.

Every MVES student spends one hour/week in the garden; our High School and Junior High students spend up to 3 hours per week in the garden. We use the garden to teach hands-on, place-based inter-disciplinary lessons that relate to students’ classroom studies focused on health, nutrition, math, science, engineering, literacy/poetry, and art. Hands-on activities and lessons not only include academic learning, but also farm chores: weeding, harvesting, weighing, delivering, planting, sowing seeds, turning compost, cleaning tools, and eating the bounty of their efforts.

We are building K-12 programs around climate change, environmental science, and organic farming connections between children, schools and our community. The foundation of this expansion is the construction of a 72 x 24 ft passive solar educational greenhouse and related student-led environmental programs. In 2020, students harvested over 4,000 pound of fresh produce that was delivered to our schools’ cafeterias or eaten as snacks during our garden programs. This is important because the Methow Valley School District is a rural, Title 1 school, where more than 46% of the students qualify for free or reduced meal service and 30% of the children are living in poverty. Classroom in Bloom’s fresh food and nutrition programs are therefore impacting those children and families that need it most, contributing to food security for all in our community.

**Responsibilities**

Classroom in Bloom’s Vision “connects children to sustainably grown food and the natural world to support the health of our people, place and planet”.

As an intern with Classroom in Bloom, you will build hands-on skills with our farming operations, assist in teaching and garden activities at summer camps following Classroom in Bloom’s educational model, assist in native garden plantings, and assist with responsibilities of non-profit management for a model Farm to Cafeteria program. Much of your two days per work week at CiB will be dedicated to farm work with staff and volunteers, and assisting children with garden activities during our July summer camp programs.

**Required Qualifications and Experience**

We hope as a summer intern you will find inspiration in farm work, build connections to the land through farming, art and science education programs, work as a positive presence with staff, students, and volunteers.

No formal farm experience is needed, however we expect interns to be punctual, self-driven, energetic, hard-working, and ready to learn each day on the farm. Interns will work closely with our Garden Coordinator, Executive Director, and our summer camp educators. Writing, photography and social media outreach skills are highly valued for our quarterly newsletters and outreach efforts to the public about our programs. A few administrative tasks may be asked of interns to enhance and grow our non-profit organization.

Interns must be able to get to work with their own vehicle (bike or car), lift heavy objects, and work comfortably on the farm for long hours during the summer months. A background check is required by the Methow Valley School District to work with school-aged children.