



Join Wisconsin Homegrown Lunch in bringing fresh, local foods to Dane County schools!

AmeriCorps Farm-to-School Specialist Positions Available Now

July 31, 2008

Contact: Doug Wubben, 608-310-7833, dwubben@wisc.edu

Overview:

REAP Food Group is seeking candidates to fill four 50% time AmeriCorps positions with the Wisconsin Homegrown Lunch program (WHL). WHL's AmeriCorps members will work with WHL staff to expand farm-to-school programming in Madison, Evansville, Monona Grove, Mt. Horeb and Middleton public schools.

Two WHL AmeriCorps members will focus on food procurement and work with school food service personnel and local farms to increase the amount of local foods served at the schools. This will include helping to coordinate WHL's classroom snack program in Madison and WHL's local foods school fundraiser. The other two WHL AmeriCorps members will focus on food and nutrition education and will work with students, teachers, principals, and local farmers to coordinate fresh-food education in and out of the classroom. This may include lunchroom food tastings, classroom lessons, school garden work, and farm field trips.

WHL AmeriCorps will have opportunities to work with elementary and middle school students, teachers, farmers, food service personnel, parents, and a wide range of community partners including Community Groundworks (formerly Friends of Troy Gardens - www.troygardens.org) and the University of Wisconsin Extension Nutrition Education Program.

WHL AmeriCorps members will be based out of REAP Food Group's office in downtown Madison, WI and will report directly to the WHL Program Coordinator. Work hours will fall primarily between 8am-4pm Mon-Fri but may include occasional evening and weekend hours.

WHL AmeriCorps members will be part of a larger team of 20 AmeriCorps members who will be implementing farm-to-school programs at eight other sites around Wisconsin. There will be training opportunities with this larger group as well as with our team of four WHL AmeriCorps.

Specific Duties:

Food Procurement positions:

- Facilitate purchasing relationships between local farms and school food services in Evansville, Mt. Horeb, Middleton, and Monona Grove school districts
- Promote local foods and farms through lunchroom activities, flyers, and communications to families
- Work with the Willy St. Co-op kitchen to coordinate WHL classroom snack program in Madison
- Coordinate the WHL local foods school fundraiser by placing orders with local farms and vendors, communicating with participating schools, and coordinating volunteers

Food/Nutrition Educator positions:

- Present WHL fresh food lessons to elementary students in Madison schools
- Provide feedback on lesson plans and develop lesson materials
- Assist with cooking classes in Madison middle schools
- Recruit volunteers to assist with tastings, classroom lessons, and field trips
- Contribute to newsletter, website, and other communications for schools and families

Wisconsin Homegrown Lunch is a joint project of:



REAP Food Group:
www.reapfoodgroup.org

UW-Madison Center for Integrated
Agricultural Systems: www.cias.wisc.edu



Required qualifications:

- Strong interpersonal and problem-solving skills in a team setting
- Strong verbal and written communication skills
- Passion for inspiring healthful eating among youth and for promoting local, sustainable agriculture
- Working knowledge of word processing and spreadsheet software and ability to efficiently navigate the internet
- Ability to work independently
- Ability to provide one's own transportation for work purposes (this will sometimes include travel to outlying school districts)

Desired qualifications:

- Experience in education, nutrition, environmental science, or agriculture
- Experience working with youth in an educational setting
- Volunteer or paid experience with socially, economically and/or ethnically diverse populations
- Experience working with food service in schools, restaurants, or other institutions
- Experience working with farmers
- Skillful in establishing and maintaining professional work relationships
- Experience recruiting and managing volunteers
- Familiarity with graphic design software

Appointment Type:

This is a 50% one-year appointment. The position will begin September 1, 2008 and end August 31, 2009. There are four positions available.

Compensation:

AmeriCorps members will receive a modest living allowance (approximately \$475/month), student loan deferment, and a \$2,360 education award at the end of service. Work travel expenses will be covered.

Application Procedure and Deadline:

Please submit a resume, two professional references, and a letter of interest including a statement explaining why you think farm-to-school is important for Wisconsin schools by August 21, 2008 to:

Doug Wubben
Project Coordinator, Wisconsin Homegrown Lunch
REAP Food Group
306 E. Wilson St. #2E
Madison, WI 53703

*Emailed applications are also acceptable, send to: dwubben@wisc.edu.

About Wisconsin Homegrown Lunch

Wisconsin Homegrown Lunch (www.reapfoodgroup.org/farmentoschool) is a farm-to-school program working to improve the diets of school children and to broaden markets for local, sustainable food producers by introducing a variety of locally grown foods into K-12 schools in and around Madison, WI. Students are presented fresh produce and other foods through their school meal programs, classroom snack programs, and a range of educational activities in their schools and on farms. Wisconsin Homegrown Lunch is co-sponsored by the REAP Food Group (www.reapfoodgroup.org) and the UW Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems (www.cias.wisc.edu).

For Further Information about:

Wisconsin Homegrown Lunch visit <http://www.reapfoodgroup.org/farmentoschool>

AmeriCorps visit www.americorps.org

the application process contact Doug Wubben at (608) 310-7833, dwubben@wisc.edu

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