

Wisahkotewinowak Collective

wisahk-tew-win-o-wak: *the first green shoots that come up from Mother Earth after a fire has gone through the land.*



Job Posting: Garden Coordinator

Start and end dates: May through August, with possible extension into November

Hours Worked: 35 hours/week on average

Compensation: \$18.00-\$22.00 per hour (commensurate with experience)

Background

Wisahkotewinowak is an urban Indigenous garden collective promoting Land-based learning and relationships across Kitchener-Waterloo, Guelph and Cambridge. Wisahkotewinowak is the Collective of gardens and people who care for them. We have a core team of seven Indigenous (First Nation and Métis) people and settler-allies. We welcome seasonal staff and volunteers each summer to support the care and maintenance of the gardens. We currently maintain four gardens across the Waterloo region. These serve as our main places of operation during the growing season. More information about Wisahkotewinowak is available on our website: <https://www.wisahk.ca/>

For the 2022 season we are looking to hire two FT Garden Coordinators beginning May until the end of August, with the possibility of fall work. One position will be responsible for the Three Sisters Garden, located at [Steckle Heritage Farm](#) in Kitchener. The second position will be responsible for the Produce Garden, located at the [University of Waterloo North Campus Community Gardens](#). We are looking for individuals with a strong work ethic, leadership experience and ability to work independently to fulfill responsibilities

Position Details

The Garden Coordinators will support all farm and gardening related activities to ensure the health and productivity of the gardens in the 2022 season. Our goal is to increase the amount of food grown to directly support White Owl Native Ancestry's Food Share. This program provides approximately 20 Indigenous households with healthy food each week. Garden Coordinators may support the delivery of the food share, which takes place Wednesday afternoons at the White Owl Office in Kitchener. Into the harvest season they will help with harvesting, washing, weighing, and packaging food to be distributed by the White Owl Food Share Coordinator.

In the pre-season (May-June) The Garden Coordinators will receive training from and work directly with the Lead Farmers to learn and understand their responsibilities for the garden. The Garden Coordinators will work together with the Lead Farmers to ensure all garden sites are prepped and seedlings are all planted. Pre-season activities include:

- Seed starting
- Garden bed preparation, weeding, mulching, etc.
- Transplanting seedlings, watering, fertilizing, etc.
- Participating in planning meetings

Garden Coordinators will also participate in the Garden Youth Internship Program which runs in partnership with White Owl from the end of June to August. This program employs Youth Interns to help care for the gardens, while participating in weekly reflections, arts and skill building workshops to enhance Land-based learning. There will be opportunities for Garden Coordinators to support planning and implementation of this program if they show interest.

In the mid season (July-August) The Garden Coordinators are expected to perform day-to-day garden maintenance independently, but will regularly communicate with the Farm Leaders for clarification and problem solving. Garden Coordinators will lead by example to work with the Youth Interns and volunteers to ensure responsibilities are carried out to ensure successful growth in the garden. Mid-season activities include:

- Garden maintenance (weeding, watering, harvesting, etc.)
- Harvesting, washing and preparing foods for the Food Share
- Coordinating youth interns and supporting volunteer sessions
- Participating in Land-based programming and skill-building workshops

Qualifications

- Preferred background or some experience in gardening or agriculture, but a keen interest and willingness to learn is welcomed
- Reliable, independent, quick-learner, show leadership and initiative on the job site(s)
- Strong interpersonal communications skills, ability to work collaboratively with a team
- Comfortable working outdoors in direct sun exposure for several hours at time*
- Applicants should be able to physically lift and carry up to 45 lbs
- Must have a valid G drivers license and access to a reliable vehicle

*This is an outdoor job with some indoor activities. There is flexibility in scheduling to work in less heat intensive parts of the day. In inclement weather it is expected that alternative indoor jobs are performed. It is expected to work Monday-Friday with some occasional Saturdays for extra programming activities and garden care (ie. in times of minimal rain)

These positions are supported by funding from the Kitchener-Waterloo Community Foundation - Racial Equity Fund. We are open to all applications but will prioritize those from Indigenous, Black, or racialized communities.

Please submit resume and a cover letter to wisahkotewinowak@gmail.com

Deadline: Friday February 25, 2022