



Schmahl Science Workshops HealthCorps Job Description

What is the Silicon Valley HealthCorps?

In an innovative new partnership, The Health Trust has joined together with AmeriCorps and nine local organizations to form the Silicon Valley HealthCorps. The goal of this collaboration is to use gardens, farm to school programs and the work of 46 AmeriCorps members to bring fresh fruits, vegetables and education to residents of Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. The program seeks to engage the community as active participants in promoting and sustaining community and school gardens, and to provide a coordinated, county-wide approach to expanding garden based learning. The program will also increase access to fresh produce through the development of new school and community gardens, low-cost farm stands, and by utilizing a farm-to-school model to increase the amount of fresh and local produce served in school lunches.

What is Schmahl Science Workshops?

Like children everywhere, the children at Schmahl Science Workshops love science. And like children everywhere, they learn most when they are motivated, challenged and having fun. We are a partnership of students, parents, teachers, scientists and engineers who have come together to help foster this interest in science. We believe children are motivated to learn when their ideas are cultivated through the fun of designing and developing experiments. Schmahl Sciences Workshop puts the “sizzle” back in science.

Schmahl Science Workshops (SSW) is one of thirteen affiliate organizations located at History San Jose. Thousands of youngsters and families visit History San Jose each year. Schmahl Science Workshops is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that serves 26,000 pre-kindergarten through high school youngsters in 149 schools throughout Silicon Valley, including **2350 youngsters** at History Park.

However, this Project is not about youngsters visiting History San Jose. It is about the **1400 families** that live in the low income apartments and rentals surrounding History Park that simply do not have the means to purchase fresh vegetables on a regular basis. We propose to do something about it!

The majority of the 1400 families in this community are hard working Latinos in low paying jobs. There is a little “convenience market” next to History San Jose, but the nearest supermarket is nearly two miles away. Inexpensive fresh vegetables are not readily available and many families simply do not have the means to purchase vegetables on a regular basis. As a result, we have been working with both History San

Jose and the HEALTH Trust to plan a substantial “**Victory Garden Project**” that will dramatically increase the amount of fresh vegetables available to families starting in the fall of 2010. At the same time, SSW will have the ability to introduce neighborhood children as well as hundreds of youngsters from across Silicon Valley to exciting hands-on science in the greenhouse classroom.

Project Inspire: Victory Garden Project Coordinator (1 full-time position)

Victory Garden Project Coordinator will work directly with community members and staff from Schmahl Science Workshops to build a sustainable and scaleable project that will not only provide fresh vegetables on a year-around basis and quality hands-on science workshops for youngsters, but serve as a model for other communities. **Activities will primarily include:**

1) Teaching garden-based learning programming for grades K-12

- prepare for and implement garden, environmental, nutrition and food curriculum in programs for K-5, middle and high school grades;
- document programs for the Schmahl Science Workshops website and e-newsletter;

2) Community Outreach...establishing a relationship with the people living in the community and bringing small groups together

- Bilingual
- Support the development of a community leadership group
- Identification of skilled volunteers for the NVIDIA event in December
 - People who may work in the landscaping industry...knowledge of irrigation
 - People who may work in the building trades
 - People who may work in the health sector

3) Information on diabetes, obesity, healthy eating and healthy life styles

- Work with The Health Trust and SSW to provide a variety of workshops of the above topics

4) Work with the community to establish the Victory Garden as a part of the community and a source for fresh vegetables

- Oversee the day to day operation of the Victory Garden once it is complete...from December to June such as weeding, planting, and harvesting of produce.
- Work with the community and SSW to maximize adult and student participation in health and agriculture workshops.

This position involves working with teachers, staff, students and parents at various Schmahl Science Workshops school sites. It includes extensive out-of-office work in the community and building relationships with local residents, so written and spoken

proficiency in a second language (Spanish, Tongan or Samoan) is highly recommended.

Program Details:

Program Location: San Jose
Program Start/End Date: September 2010 to September 2011

Program Benefits:

Living Allowance: \$16,000 stipend, distributed bi-weekly
Education Award: \$5,350 awarded after completion of service
Health Insurance: For full-time members only

Please direct inquiries to Katie Smith at katies@healthtrust.org or (408) 961-9899.
Or visit www.healthtrust.org/svhealthcorps for more information.