



WWW.GORGEGROWN.COM P.O. BOX 752, HOOD RIVER, OR 97031 (541) 490-6420

Gorge Grown Food Network
Mobile Farmers Market Assistant
Position Description

DIVERSITY STATEMENT FOR HIRING

Gorge Grown Food Network is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability status, protected veteran status or any other characteristic protected by law. We have a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion in our work and create opportunities to interact with people who live, think, act, and speak differently than ourselves.

Deadline to apply: April 7, 2020

Approximate start date: early May 2020

Worksite Location: Days begin and end in Hood River, but markets are all over the Gorge

Work Schedule: Saturdays plus one weekday, TBD based on your availability and market schedule.

Hourly Rate: \$17/ hour

FTE: 15-20 hours per week, May-October 2020, with the potential for more work during the 2021 season

Reports to: Mobile Farmers Market Coordinator

ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

Founded in 2006, GGFN's mission is to *build a resilient and inclusive regional food system that improves the health and well-being of our community*. Our approach is strategically multi-pronged:

- Increase supply: support our local producers by bolstering markets and business development.
- Increase access and demand through programs like Mobile Farmers Markets, local food marketing campaigns, and Veggie Prescriptions.
- Empower and Mobilize: through partnerships with dozens of key organizations like the Food Security Coalition, School Garden Network, Rural Farmers Market Network, Producer Working Groups, and Coordinated Care Organizations we strive to create lasting change through collaboration and collective impact.

We are a small staff of 4-8 people (depending on the season). Our office is located in downtown Hood River, but our work spans across all five counties of the Columbia River Gorge: Skamania and Klickitat in Washington, and Hood River, Wasco, and Sherman counties in Oregon.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Our Mobile Farmers Market began back in 2008 to 1) support small rural farmers markets that lacked a strong and consistent vendor base by serving as an “anchor” vendor; 2) create a new sales outlet for local food producers to sell their products; and 3) establish an outreach opportunity for GGFN to educate the community about local food, and our programs and mission. The MM was a catalyst for many now self-sustaining farmers markets in the Gorge, including the Mosier, Goldendale, Stevenson, and Odell markets.

Since 2018, we have served the communities of: Moro, Wasco, Klickitat, Odell, Hood River, Lyle, The Dalles, and Cascade Locks. Our markets are strategically placed to reach populations who experience higher rates of food insecurity: seniors, farmworkers, those who identify as Latinx or indigenous, people on limited-incomes, and those from isolated, rural communities where the only place to buy food is often a convenience store.

The weekly operation schedule of the Mobile Market is such: we buy produce from small, local farms. Farmers drop off orders directly into our refrigerated Sprinter van. Then we drive to our market stops, bringing “Produce to the People.” After a week of markets, we try to sell any leftover produce to restaurants and donate the rest to food pantries.

JOB SUMMARY

We are seeking an outgoing, friendly and dependable person to staff our Mobile Farmers Market. This position is part-time but may be combined with our Gleaning Project Coordinator position for a total of 30 hours per week (see position description at www.gorgegrown.com/jobs). If interested, we could also try to connect you with a farmer in our area to work as a part-time farm hand (this would be yet entirely separate position and contract through a different employer and with a different pay rate). The Mobile Farmers Market staff position is seasonal (May-October) but has potential to evolve into a year-round position with the right fit. The work we do at Gorge Grown continuously shifts to meet our community’s needs and utilize the skillsets of our most important asset—our staff—so there is always room to grow, depending on the funding and needs.

This position will be responsible for operating 2-3 weekly Mobile Farmers Markets. This includes our Saturday markets as well as 1-2 weekday markets (we will work with you to figure out which weekday market fits your availability and skillset. For example, if you are a community member of The Dalles, it would be fitting to run our market there on Wednesdays; if you are a fluent Spanish speaker, you may be more apt to run our Mercado del Valle stop in Odell on Thursdays, etc.). You are expected to be consistently available to work your delegated markets.

This position will report directly to Mobile Farmers Market Coordinator, with oversight by our Executive Director.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Operating 2-3 markets per week:
 - make sure all support materials are charged, ready, and on board to support the operations of the program. This includes cash bags, iPad/POS system, EBT machine, price signs, market signs, etc.

- prepare produce for markets (e.g. weighing and bagging salad, quality control, etc.)
- market set-up and break-down
- provide above-and-beyond customer service at market sites: engage current and potential customers to encourage them to try new products, budget their produce money, identify the farmers who grew the products, and provide health and food preparation messaging and resources
- accurately administer cash, credit, EBT, Veggie Rx, and FDNP sales transactions to customers using a custom POS application and complete end-of-day financial report and enter report into database
- coordinate leftover produce sales to restaurants
- Attend bi-monthly all-staff meetings, Food Security Coalition quarterly meetings, and regular check-ins with supervisor.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Experience in retail sales (produce a plus).
- Experience using, or ability to learn the following quickly: an iPad, the Square app and other POS systems, basic accounting, and data tracking in Excel.
- Comfort communicating through email and text.
- Ability to multi-task, work independently, and thrive in fast-paced, physically demanding work environments. Able to maintain a high-energy, friendly attitude (even if it's hot, dusty, cold, rainy, or the end of a long day).
- Exceptional interpersonal, customer, and communication skills.
- Ability to enthusiastically engage with shoppers and stakeholders of all ages, gender identities, sexual orientations, colors, cultures, socio-economic backgrounds, political affiliations, documentation status, and abilities.
- A love of fruits and vegetables and a passion for sharing information, recipes, and tips for cooking or food preservation.
- Previous knowledge of, or a desire to learn about the nuances and complexities of local community food system development.
- Demonstrate a can-do attitude and creative problem-solving skills. Able to respond to challenges quickly, efficiently, and appropriately.
- Dependably available to work your delegated weekly markets, which includes Saturdays and some weekday evenings, and likely 8-10 hour work days.
- Ability to lift 50 pounds in and out of a vehicle repeatedly.
- Clean driving record; ability to drive and safely maneuver a Sprinter van (does not require a commercial driver license).
- Some Spanish speaking ability a plus but not required.

TO APPLY

Please submit a resume, cover letter (or any creative alternative that highlights your qualifications for this position), and three references to kiara@gorgegrown.com with "Mobile Market Assistant" and your name as the subject line. No phone calls. **Application deadline – April 7, 2020.**