



Empowering Native Communities, One Youth at a Time

Position Title: Indigenous Science and Foodways Coordinator - Part Time (25-32 hrs/wk) Staff

Name of Organization: Spirit of the Sun, Inc.

Location: Denver, Colorado

SPIRIT OF THE SUN'S MISSION AND VISION:

Spirit of the Sun's mission is to work in partnership with Native/Indigenous communities in urban areas and on reservations to boost the resilience of Native people, especially youth and young adults.

Our vision is that the Native youth of today become the next generation of Native leaders, entrepreneurs, and skilled professionals who will help guide their communities toward wellness, prosperity, and cultural revitalization.

SUMMARY:

Through our Indigenous Science and Foodways Youth Leadership Program, Spirit of the Sun educates youth and young adults on Indigenous knowledge learned within our community. These teachings are leading the way in resilient land stewardship, Native foodways and growing practices, environmental justice, scientific innovation, soil building, and water protection. The focus for this position is on training youth to promote their own learned knowledge to empower others in climate change initiatives with an Indigenous lens of climate resilience as advocates and educators. Through workshops, cooking demos and truth telling on Rematriation and Mycroremediation, this position empowers youth and young adults to become the leaders within their communities.

This program allows Indigenous youth and young adults to connect with their genetic memory and intergenerational ways of knowing in order to build a reciprocal relationship with the land and their own cultural identities. Through discussions on kinship and relationality, our youth and young adults learn to become good ancestors and stewards of Mother Earth. They then move forward in their communities to create healthy, balanced ecosystems for the next seven generations. The program seeks to cultivate a new generation of leaders who are well-versed in Indigenous ways of knowing and demonstrating as advocates for environmental justice and climate resilience.

DIRECT SUPERVISOR(S):

Executive Director and Director of Operations

SCHEDULE:

Twenty-Five (25) to Thirty-Two (32) hours a week, Option of Two (2) work schedules:

1. Tuesday-Saturday or
2. Sunday-Thursday

40% remote work, 60% in the field, preferred to be based in the Denver-metro area.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES:

Workshops and Training Sessions: Coordinate 1-2 Indigenous cooking trainings a month focused on preparing various traditional cuisine based on bioregional agricultural harvesting practices.

Workshops will be sharing Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) about seed rematriation, and seed preservation by connecting to the seeds. Both will require data collection of information including youth participants, partners and community outreach for grant serving programs.

Educational Materials: Create, develop and distribute resources on TEK, food and health justice, sustainable harvesting and hunting practices.

Youth-led Initiatives: Support youth in creating and leading community projects focused on land stewardship, Native foodways, and climate resilience.

Community Outreach: Facilitate events and activities where trained youth share their knowledge. Attend external Native youth events to engage and get families interested in SOTS programs. Create educational videos for presentations and brochures to share with community, partners and grant funders.

Program Evaluation Reports: Document the impact of the program through regular community and youth survey assessments and data reports, showcasing program successes and areas for improvement. Create a toolkit based on lessons learned and best practices through the first day of processing staff/group/program meetings, outreach, data tracking, presentations and coordinating planned youth and young adult events. Cross training to provide backup support to Mycelium Healing Project Program, Mentorship Program, HFDK Program Outreach and distribution.

****Backup support required primarily for our Native Elders' Food Share Program; as well as our other youth programs and events. Some weekends may be required.***

****Position required to participate in-person for weekly all team meetings.***

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be 18+
- CBI State and Federal Background check required.
- Extensive cultural competency and demonstrated experience working with Native and/or BIPOC youth and communities.
- At least two (2) years of administrative experience.
- At least two (2) years of food service and/or food share experience.
- At least two (2) years of customer service experience.
- High school diploma, GED or equivalent certification &/or some college.
- Comfortable with public speaking and engaging with local community members of all ages.
- A self starter and ability to work remotely and independently.
- Highly organized and able to balance multiple priorities.
- Has reliable and consistent access to transportation.
- Follow all safety measures according to guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other government organizations. Including COVID-19+ protocols, including wearing a mask and gloves while on the clock and when handling, sorting and delivering food.
- Willing to participate in Accomplice training and continued learning related to this position.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Deep invested personal and professional connections with the local Indigenous community.
- Associates degree or some college.
- Spanish proficiency.
- CPR and First Aid Certified, or open to certification upon hire.

WORK ENVIRONMENT AND PHYSICAL DEMANDS: Comfortable standing &/or being outside in various weather conditions at occasional tabling/outreach events. Ability to lift up to 50 lbs.

LICENSE/CERTIFICATION REQUIRED: Valid driver's license and current auto insurance.

COMPENSATION:

\$23.00-\$24.50/hr (based on experience)

BENEFITS:

After 90 days, Option to enroll in health, dental and vision insurance covered by Spirit of the Sun, Inc. 100%. Prorated personal and sick leave, Eleven (11) recognized federal holidays as paid days off.

ANTICIPATED START DATE: March 1, 2025

DEADLINE TO APPLY: February 25, 2025

TO APPLY: Please email your resume, a one-page cover letter, and two (2) professional references to sfrancis@spiritofthesun.org

In the cover letter, please describe:

- Why you are interested in this position and what you will bring to our team at Spirit of the Sun.
- Your experience(s) in working with Native and BIPOC communities.
- And what experiences and skills you feel make you the best candidate for this position.