

Background

The San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging, Inc., in partnership with the SOUTHERN COLORADO Action Agency (SoCoCAA) to provide a greenhouse garden where older adults and tribal elders in Ignacio will realize food sovereignty. Food Sovereignty is defined by the beneficiaries determining the type, quantity and quality of food consumed by controlling how their food is produced and distributed. SoCOCAA's Senior Center director and staff will be empowered to address local issues of hunger and health by cultivating their own fresh foods that will contribute to their overall health and wellbeing. The method of using Growing Spaces (<https://growingspaces.com/>) geodesic grow dome, a controlled, sustainable dome greenhouse environment for the purpose of growing fruits and vegetables for elders to enjoy 24/7 – 365 days a year.

Horticulturist Job Summary

We have an immediate opening for an experienced Horticulturist. Who will provide landscape maintenance, restoration, and design services to SoCOCAA's Senior Center for at least 200 older Americans, who are living in Ignacio and on the Southern Ute reservation. In this role, you will test the growing dome soil and inspect the indoor and outdoor planter beds. Collaboration with the Senior Center Director and tribal team to determine the best plants that should be used throughout the garden or planting area based on soil type and client expectations. We prefer candidates who have at least three years of professional horticulture experience and are American Society of Horticultural Science (ASHS) certified.

Horticulturist Duties and Responsibilities

- Assist with landscape maintenance, restoration, and design.
- Install and cultivate edible and ornamental plants.
- Transplant and prune shrubs and small trees.
- Weed landscape beds and assist with mulching.
- Identify and treat potential pests or diseases.
- Provide plant care advice to other team members.

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The sun setting is no less beautiful than the sun rising

Horticulturist Requirements and Qualifications

- Prefer a bachelor's degree in horticulture or a related field (or associate degree and equivalent experience)
- Certification through the ASHS a plus
- Responsible for increasing yield, improving vigor, size, and taste of plants. They also coordinate research programs for selective crops.
- Must have extensive knowledge about trees, flowers, vegetables, nuts, bushes, and fruits.
- Experience in landscaping or working with various types of plants (3-5 years preferred)
- Light construction experience a plus
- Must be willing to lift to 50 pounds of materials (soil, construction materials, etc.)
- Valid driver's license and reliable transportation
- Comfortable working outside in various weather conditions
- Eye for detail

Compensation/Pay Range

- Independent Contract (must have own liability insurance)
- Compensation is based on a range of \$20--\$30 per hour based on education and/or experience.
- Up to 20 -30 hours per week.
- Work with and coordinate with SoCoCAA's staff or volunteers.
- Education, experience, and knowledge of older adult programs is a plus!

HOW TO APPLY

- Send an email with a letter of interest, resume and 3 professional references.
- Write in the Subject Line: **Attn: Horticulturist Hiring Committee**
- Please email: Gordon@sibaaa.org and hvega@sococaa.org

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