



*Native Seeds/SEARCH seeks to find, protect, and preserve the seeds of the people of the Greater Southwest so that these arid adapted crops may benefit all peoples and nourish a changing world*

## **Garden Maintenance Volunteer**

Native Seeds/SEARCH is a non-profit that conserves and promotes the food and farming traditions of the Desert Southwest. Our collection of arid-adapted, open-pollinated seeds has cultural roots in over 50 Indigenous and other communities. The Garden Maintenance Volunteer will play a key role in maintaining the Tucson seed production gardens to increase the supply of arid-adapted seed for the seed bank and public distribution.

The ideal candidate is reliable, detail-oriented, and comfortable working independently. They should also have some experience growing plants in the Sonoran Desert and a willingness to creatively solve problems. This is a part-time, volunteer position, based at the Tucson Conservation Center with a time commitment of around 10-15 hours/week. We envision a volunteer that can make a long-term commitment and be permanent part of the garden team.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Support regular planting activities throughout the gardens, especially: propagation, watering, weeding, and seed harvesting
- Cover weekend watering and gardening responsibilities in rotation with other garden staff
- Inspect and repair irrigation systems, hand tools, and small equipment as able
- Support collection of agronomic data, such as crop populations and flowering dates
- Direct volunteer work during a once-a-week weeding event
- Perform bi-weekly crop inspections to identify pest or pathogen concerns
- Organize, clean, and support other garden activities as time allows

### **Required Qualifications**

- Willingness and flexibility to do a variety of tasks in support of the Conservation Center gardens
- Physical ability to work outdoors in conditions that may exceed 100°F
- Attention to detail, organization, and good time management skills
- Ability to work independently and direct volunteers
- Valid Driver's License with paid insurance and reliable transportation

### **Desired Knowledge, Skills & Abilities:**

- Basic knowledge of PVC and drip irrigation systems (training available)
- Strong problem-solving skills; experience in basic carpentry and mechanical repair

### **TO APPLY:**

- Please submit a cover letter and CV: [jjohnson@nativeseeds.org](mailto:jjohnson@nativeseeds.org)

*Note: This position is intended for an individual who is not expecting to transition to paid work with NS/S. For those seeking part or full-time employment, please check our website for open positions or apprenticeship opportunities.*