

Mesa Grande Indian Housing Authority

Plant Steward Assistant

Part-Time | Black Canyon Housing Development & Hallyeyaaw Lane Park, Mesa Grande Reservation

Compensation: \$20.00/hour

Hours: 20 hours per week, part-time, on-site

Location: Hallyeyaaw Lane Park, Santa Ysabel, CA

Reports To: Jesse Morales, Watermaster & Culturally Traditional Plant Steward

Application Deadline: Open until filled

About the Organization

The Mesa Grande Indian Housing Authority (MGIHA) serves the Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians (MGBOMI), a federally recognized tribe approximately 50 miles northeast of San Diego. MGIHA manages 22 low-income rental units at Black Canyon and is actively restoring Hallyeyaaw Lane Park into a cultural gathering place rooted in MGBOMI heritage.

About the Role

The Plant Steward Assistant works directly alongside the Culturally Traditional Plant Steward (CTPS) to restore and tend Hallyeyaaw Lane Park and the Black Canyon community garden. This is a learning-forward, outdoor role rooted in both ecological practice and Kumeyaay cultural tradition. We are willing to hire the right candidate regardless of experience with native plants. We are looking for someone who is physically capable, dependable, curious, and ready to learn the skills necessary to fill this role over the next year. After the first year, there may be opportunities for promotion depending on preformance. The CTPS will guide the work while this person makes it happen on the ground.

Key Responsibilities

Plant Stewardship: Hallyeyaaw Lane Park & Black Canyon Garden

- Assist the CTPS with invasive species removal, including wild mustard, Bermuda grass, and salt cedar
- Support native plant installation, watering, and ongoing site maintenance at the park and garden
- Help document site conditions through field notes and photo documentation
- Assist with and help facilitate three community stewardship events, including invasive species removal day, traditional harvesting day, and transplanting day
- Learn native plant identification and Kumeyaay ethnobotany through daily work with the CTPS
- Help mentor and orient two paid summer interns during the May–July 2027 internship period

- Record plant species, quantities, and planting locations as directed; track and submit weekly hours

Qualifications

Required

- High school diploma or equivalent
- At least 2 years of maintenance, facilities, landscaping, or related hands-on experience
- Ability to perform physical labor including lifting up to 50 lbs, climbing ladders, digging, and working outdoors in variable conditions
- Able to take direction clearly and document work performed in written form
- Valid California driver's license with an insurable driving record and reliable transportation
- Must be 18 years of age or older
- Respect for MGBOMI culture, community, and the land on which this work takes place
- Must pass a background check and drug screening prior to employment

Preferred

- Tribal membership in or community connection to the Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians or another Indigenous nation
- Interest in or experience with native plants, ecological restoration, or traditional land stewardship
- Experience working in a tribal community or Native organization

How to Apply

Email a completed application packet to danielle_mgiha@hotmail.com that includes:

- Resume including work history from the past five years, relevant education, and three professional references with contact information, no more than 2 pages long.
- Completed job application
- Completed release of information to conduct a background check
- Copy of applicant's tribal identification card; or if your spouse is a tribal member, a copy of his/her tribal I.D. card (if applicable)

MGIHA is an equal opportunity employer. We are committed to tribal preference in hiring. MGBOMI tribal members and Indigenous applicants are strongly encouraged to apply. MGIHA is an equal opportunity employer subject to Indian Preference provisions under PL-93-638.