Position # 0002-3491

Environmental Horticulture Agent I, II, III or IV

Hillsborough County (South Central District)
Seffner, Florida

Application Deadline: February 26th, 2007 or until position is filled

Hillsborough County Extension has a position available to plan, develop, implement and evaluate educational programs in the area of environmental horticulture for homeowner horticulture clientele. A major component of this program is the development, implementation and motivation of a volunteer workforce. The individual will work closely with a team of full- and part-time program coordinators dedicated to FYN programming within the Hillsborough Urban Horticulture Department. Emphasis will be in Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) principles to promote healthy growth, reduce pollutants, improve water quality and conserve resources while coordinating activities of and programming for the University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Master Gardener program.

The agent will be expected to have a working knowledge of horticulture and experience with diagnostic skills, best management practices, volunteer development, soils, disease identification and control. Works with other agents, agencies, and groups on cooperative educational efforts designed to produce positive practices with higher impact. The Agent will develop an Advisory Committee to assess client needs and program design, work with agencies and organizations to acquire grants, cooperative in interdisciplinary projects, provide service to schools, develop creative works (presentations, posters, website development, etc), write non-technical people-friendly publications, and participate in professional societies. The agent will be expected to attain promotion and permanent status per state Extension faculty guidelines.

The successful candidate will, from time to time, assume other responsibilities that benefit the total county extension program as assigned by the County Extension Director and the South Central District Extension Director.

This position requires a Bachelor’s Degree (Master’s preferred) in a plant or natural science related field. Other requirements include excellent communication skills and computer competencies, ability to organize and motivate people, and good teamwork skills. Experience working in multicultural settings and coursework/training on multicultural topics are desirable. Employment is contingent upon a background check and drug screen.

**Necessary Special Requirements:** Must possess a valid Florida Driver’s License. Travel in/out of the county with occasional overnight travel, irregular hours and some nights and weekends should be anticipated.
Hillsborough County contains approximately 1,072 square miles with a countrywide population of over 1.1 million at a density of 950 people per square mile. Greater than 20% of the population speaks a language other than English as their first language. A home ownership rate of 64% exists in Hillsborough County and approximately 25% of the populace holds a B.S. degree or better. The main agricultural commodities are aquaculture, citrus, cattle, dairy, ornamentals, trees, turf, strawberries and vegetables. Tourism is also a viable industry and major cities include Tampa, Plant City and Temple Terrace.