

Position Title: Upper Midwest Regional Seed Network Coordinator

Half-time independent contractor (25 hours per week)

Reports to: Program Director (Rowen White)



NAFSA is seeking an Upper Midwest Regional Seed Network Coordinator to join our team. The ideal candidate should be a dynamic individual who is deeply passionate about the Indigenous food and seed sovereignty movement with excellent virtual and online communication and project management skills. This is a remote work from home position, but the individual must have the ability to travel for region seed work/networking. This person must be living in the Upper Midwest region (Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, South Dakota, Michigan).

The Native American Food Sovereignty Alliance (NAFSA) is a national network of Indigenous leaders dedicated to restoring food systems that support tribal self-determination and community wellness. NAFSA supports ethical economic development by promoting expanded local food production that renews natural resources and enhances traditional cultural activities. NAFSA brings together proven strategies with innovative thinking as we mentor a new generation of Native food sovereignty activists, farmers and practitioners. This position will work directly with one of our signature programs, the Indigenous Seedkeepers Network (ISKN).

The mission of the Indigenous Seed Keepers Network (ISKN) is to nourish and assist the growing Seed Sovereignty Movement across Turtle Island (North America). As a national network, we leverage resources and cultivate solidarity and communication within the matrix of regional grass-roots tribal seed sovereignty projects. We accomplish this mission by providing educational resources, mentorship training, outreach and advocacy support on seed policy issues, and organizing national and regional events and convenings to connect many communities who are engaging in this vital work. We aim to create a collaborative framework and declaration for ethical seed stewardship and indigenous seed guidelines for tribal communities to guide them as they protect their seeds from patenting and bio-piracy. We support the creation of solutions-oriented programs for adaptive resilient seed systems within tribal communities to enhance the creative capacity to continue to evolve as the face of our Mother Earth changes.

ISKN is a shade tree of support to the essential work of regional and tribal seed initiatives, as we offer a diverse array of resources aimed at nourishing and supporting a vibrant indigenous seed movement, as a complement to the growing Food Sovereignty movement within Indian country. In honor of the grand lineage of Seedkeepers who have faithfully passed down seeds

for our nourishment, we make a restored commitment to care for these precious seeds for those yet to come.

Job Description:

The Upper Midwest Regional Seed Network Coordinator is a highly interactive, relationship-driven role that will promote and catalyze communication and collaboration across the Upper Midwest as it relates to continued capacity building around regional Seed Sovereignty. We seek a creative and capable practitioner with the experience and understanding to continue the capacity building of the Upper Midwest Indigenous Seedkeepers Network as we create momentum towards the official establishment of a regional Seed Growers Cooperative.

The ideal candidate has a passion for seed and food sovereignty has natural skills in both written and verbal communication and relationship building. The Upper Midwest Regional Seed Network Coordinator will assist with internal communications within the organization as well as regional networking among the 25+ nations that represent the Upper Midwest Indigenous Seedkeepers Network. The ideal candidate is comfortable working with creative autonomy and is used to forging paths of your own based on shared team goals.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

- Research and co-facilitate the pilot year of setting the foundation for the first regional Indigenous Seed Growers Cooperative
- Works with National Program Director to develop and implement curriculum and listening sessions based on the needs of the region.
- Works with National Program Director to develop strategic plans for the regional Seed Cooperative and ISKN network.
- Assists with training and implementing Seed Sovereignty Assessments in tribal communities.
- Assist with logistics for program trainings, workshops and gatherings
- Manage regional Membership and Network communication and database
- Co-Facilitate monthly Upper Midwest ISKN calls and participates in weekly NAFSA project/program calls as needed
- Assist with reporting and writing about the progress of the Seed Growers Cooperative in the region.
- Assists with the coordination of the Fall/Winter 2020-2021 Regional Seed Drive and Distribution
- Assists with fundraising as needed

Qualities and Qualifications:

- Demonstrated commitment to the principles and priorities of NAFSA.
- NAFSA strongly encourages applications from Native individuals, especially those enrolled in federally recognized tribes, who have strong connections to tribal communities. All applicants must demonstrate the cultural competence needed to work with our diverse Native American membership and stakeholders.
- Excellent writing, editing and proofreading skills
- Experience and passion for community organizing and networking
- Great time and task management skills
- Well-organized, detail-oriented, and capable of meeting short term deadlines while advancing multiple projects with long term goals
- Background and familiarity with agriculture, Indigenous food sovereignty, and rural and diverse land-based tribal communities is strongly preferred.
- Creative, demonstrably committed and enthusiastic about equity and justice in Indigenous food sovereignty
- Proficiency or high level of comfort with digital tools and databases (e.g., Zoom, Google Drive etc)
- Fluency in technologies and communication mechanisms that support remote teams, including file sharing, web-based meetings, conference calls, and emerging technologies
- High level of professionalism and exceptional interpersonal skills
- Demonstrated ability to work as a team member as well as the ability to work independently in a team environment
- Naturally curious and open to creative solutions in regenerative indigenous agricultural economies
- Willingness to travel periodically to quarterly staff retreats and occasional program events in tribal communities

Deadline to apply: September 15, 2020 by 11:59 pm (PST)

Please send your resume and a cover letter expressing your interest to Rowen White rowen@nativefoodalliance.org.

The Native American Food Sovereignty Alliance (NAFSA) is an equal opportunity employer and enthusiastically encourages people from a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences to apply. NAFSA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), gender identity, national origin, citizenship, age, mental or physical disability, veteran status, marital status, sexual orientation or any other basis prohibited by law.