



Vermont Youth Conservation Corps

1949 East Main Street, Richmond, VT 05477

802-434-3969

www.vycc.org

info@vycc.org

Food and Farm AmeriCorps Intern Job Description

Overview

The Food and Farm AmeriCorps (AC) Intern position is an opportunity to gain firsthand knowledge about farming, Vermont's food system, and the link between food, education, community, and food security in VT. Farm Interns participate in all aspects of the farm including maintaining soil health, greenhouse seedling production, field crop planting, irrigation, weeding, harvesting, delivering produce, building and repairing new farm infrastructure, and raising livestock. There will also be opportunities to interact and work with VYCC Conservation Crews, School Crews, and Volunteers.

The Food and Farm Program is a 10-month residential position beginning in March 2010 and ending in January 2011. It will begin with an orientation to VYCC and the Farm Program. This overview will outline the expectations and schedule for the subsequent months on the farm, familiarize you with the VYCC and Food and Farm program, and help to cultivate skills in leadership, youth development, and community building.

Farm Interns are responsible for the day to day work that happens on a vegetable farm. You will generally work 40-50 hours per week, though long and unconventional hours, including evenings and weekends will be required, especially, when the growing season is in full swing. You will be asked to work on many diverse and sometimes tedious jobs, in all kinds of weather. The work will be physically demanding. You also need to have a strong desire to learn, a positive attitude, and the ability to be flexible. Some knowledge of vegetable production and animal husbandry is preferred but not required. In addition, the Food & Farm Interns will participate in trainings, workshops, and attend VYCC events.

Attributes of the ideal candidate include enthusiasm, confidence, the ability to work independently as well as within a close team, and the ability to learn on the ground.

Like all positions at the VYCC, the Farm Intern must be prepared to take on new and unexpected responsibilities that come with being part of a dynamic organization.

Environmental Factors

The Food & Farm AC Intern will be based out of the VYCC Headquarters Office in Richmond, VT. The office currently houses 22 full-time staff, as well as varying numbers of interns and volunteers who assist with special projects throughout the season. The Food & Farm AC Intern must be able to maintain focus and productivity amidst a bustling office atmosphere while sharing office space with others. The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps is an organization that cultivates success using a team approach. Full-time staff needs to balance personal initiative and independence with an ability to effectively utilize the team process.

The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps

The VYCC is a non-profit service, conservation, and education organization modeled after the 1930's Civilian Conservation Corps. The VYCC instills the values of personal responsibility, hard work, education, and respect for the environment in young people. Corps Members, young adults 16-24, work, live, and study together in small groups, completing priority conservation and park management projects throughout Vermont under the guidance of highly-trained leaders.

Primary Responsibilities

- Participate in all aspects of vegetable and livestock production, including planning, planting, managing, harvesting, and distributing crops.
- Work with other AmeriCorps farm interns, VYCC crews, and volunteers
- Participate in production of the CSA model and distribution of food to local food shelves, area schools, and other possible partnering sites
- Participate in creating a sustainable funding structure for the Food & Farm Program
- Collaborate on the continued growth of the Food & Farm Program
- Participate in the development of the Food & Farm Program marketing materials
- Communicate with current VYCC Farm partnering organizations including Maple Wind Farm, the Vermont Foodbank, local food shelves, area schools, and the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA)

Other Responsibilities

- Participate in trainings and workshops
- Attend program events

Minimum Qualifications

- Solid belief in the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps mission
- Commitment to the food system, farming, and working within the local community
- Excellent interpersonal skills and verbal communication skills
- Dynamic personality
- Exceptional time management, organizational skills, and attention to detail
- Availability to work regular weeknights and weekends

- Previous experience with or the ability to learn to use a tractor and other mechanical equipment
- Past farm experience is helpful but not required

Compensation

- Weekly Stipend
- Room and partial board
- Health coverage
- Childcare assistance if eligible
- Receive an AmeriCorps education award upon successful completion
- Organizational dedication to on-going professional development

To apply

For more information, please contact Erin Seward 802-434-3969 ext. 145 or erin.seward@vycc.org.

To apply, send a cover letter, resume, and three references via email to erin.seward@vycc.org with a subject line of "Attn: AC Farm Intern Hiring Committee" or via mail to:

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