



Vermont Youth Conservation Corps

1949 East Main Street, Richmond, VT 05477

802-434-3969

www.vycc.org

info@vycc.org

Farm & Food Intern Job Description

Overview

The Farm & Food 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 Vermont. Farm Interns participate in all aspects of the farm including: soil health maintenance; greenhouse seedling production; field crop planting, irrigation, weeding, and harvesting; delivering produce; crop planning; CSA business model; building and repairing new farm infrastructure; and raising chickens. There will also be opportunities to interact and work with VYCC Conservation Crews, VermontFutures School Crews, and volunteers. Farm Interns, along with the Farm Coordinator and other members of the VYCC community, are expected to contribute to the development and maintenance of a healthy working and living community.

The Farm & Food Internship is a 6-month residential position beginning in the middle of April 2011 and ending in October 2011. It will begin with an orientation to the VYCC and the Farm & Food Program. During this training, we will cover topics such as the expectations and schedule for subsequent months on the farm; an overview of the VYCC and Farm & Food Program; and how to cultivate leadership skills, youth development, and community. Much of the learning will be done through hands-on experience and interns will take part in all aspects of running the Monitor Barns Farm Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), from soil management and greenhouse seeding, to disease and pest control and raising pasture poultry. Interns will be responsible for all daily chores and upkeep of the farm, and be active participants in CSA pick-ups and farmers market sales. Interns will be encouraged to work on individual projects focused on improving the farm, sustainable agriculture, education, or food justice, and be supported by the Farm Coordinator in this initiative. There will be weekly farm meetings, in-depth readings on a variety of topics about agriculture, and individual monthly check-ins with the Farm Coordinator where the intern's work will be assessed, concerns discussed, and guidance on individual projects provided.

2011 VYCC Farm Crew

The farm crew will consist of two Farm & Food Interns and the VYCC Farm Coordinator, with assistance from our partner farm, Maple Wind Farm. The Farm Coordinator will supervise interns in the field and provide support and education regarding many aspects of the farm work. Interns will be expected to work closely with each other, the Farm Coordinator, VYCC Conservation Crews, VermontFutures School Crews, and volunteers.

Farm & Food Interns

Farm & Food Interns are responsible for the day to day work that happens on a vegetable and poultry farm. You will generally work 40-50 hours per week including some evenings and weekends, 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 Farm & Food 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 part of a team, and the ability to learn experientially.

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

Environmental Factors

The Farm & Food Interns will be based out of the VYCC Headquarters in the West Monitor Barn in Richmond, Vermont. 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 Farm & Food Intern must be able to maintain focus and productivity amidst a bustling office atmosphere while sharing office space with others. The VYCC is an organization that cultivates success using a team approach.

Residential Program

Farm & Food Interns will share a three bedroom apartment at the farmhouse on-site at the VYCC in Richmond. Interns will have their own room but share a kitchen, bathroom, and living space collectively. Working and living together on the farm will be an intense experience, coupled with long days and varying weather conditions; however the benefits of working together as a crew, growing food for a community, and learning about sustainable agriculture will be tremendous. Interns must abide by VYCC policies while representing the VYCC, on a VYCC worksite, or associated site which include: no drinking, smoking, or drug use; no physically intimate contact or relations with other interns; and no violent behavior.

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 ages 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 pasture poultry production including planning, planting, managing, harvesting, and distributing crops; and daily caretaking of chickens.
- Work with the farm crew, VYCC Conservation Crews, VermontFutures School Crews, and volunteers
- Participate in production of the CSA model and distribution of food to local food shelves, area schools, and other partner organizations
- Collaborate on the continued growth of the Farm & Food Program
- Participate in the development of the Farm & Food Program marketing materials
- Communicate with current Monitor Barns 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
- Actively participate in weekly meetings, including group readings
- Attend program events
- Work on individual projects of interest in the areas of sustainable agriculture, education, food justice that further the development of the Farm & Food Program

Minimum Qualifications

- Solid belief in the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps mission
- Commitment to the food system, farming, and working within the local community
- Past farm and some carpentry experience is helpful but not required
- 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
- Ability to lift at least 40 lbs

Compensation

- Weekly Stipend - \$150/week
- Room and partial board (CSA share, eggs, chicken)
- Organizational dedication to on-going professional development (monthly farm visits, NOFA workshops and trainings, etc.)

Start Date

- April 18, 2011 (tentative)

To Apply

Please send a cover letter, resume, and contact information for three professional references to the address below by February 15, 2011.

2011 Farm & Food Intern Search
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