



Part-Time Seasonal Position with Growing Hope GARDEN ASSISTANT

Growing Hope is a grassroots non-profit organization in Ypsilanti, Michigan dedicated to empowering individuals, groups and communities through gardening and increasing access to healthy food. We aim to use good food as a vehicle to Grow Healthy People, Grow Healthy Places, and Grow Healthy Economies.

Position Description:

We are seeking an enthusiastic and knowledgeable Garden Assistant to join our team. This is a part-time, seasonal position and will begin on April 1. The Garden Assistant is responsible for bringing Growing Hope's vision through supporting residents in the broader Ypsilanti area in growing their own food in home, school, and community sites. Our garden programs include installation of vegetable gardens with low-income families and seniors through our Home Vegetable Garden program, classes and trainings on our urban demonstration youth and home gardens, and providing consultation on garden projects. The Growing Hope Center is a 1.4 acre urban property in the heart of Ypsilanti, including an urban farm (including 30x96 foot hoophouse) which is a multi-purpose space used for organic-practice production, demonstration, education and events. The Garden Assistant will be responsible for maintaining the demonstration and educational areas of the Growing Hope Center. The Garden Assistant reports to the Farm and Garden Manager.

Responsibilities Include:

- Supporting coordination of home garden installations, garden visits and orientations for participants in our Home Vegetable Garden program. While we support households with all family structures and ages, in 2017 we'll focus in particular on seniors.
- Keep records, document program through photos and stories, track evaluation results.
- Ensuring distribution of seedlings, seeds, compost and other garden resources and materials to seniors, and low-income members of the community.
- Supporting all educational garden activities on the farm including youth site visits, tours, and adult gardening and nutrition classes.
- Implementing and maintaining demonstration garden areas
- Supervising volunteers, interns and other visitors to the Growing Hope farm, including giving tours, orienting to programs, and overseeing tasks and projects
- Support earned revenue development to sustain the position through providing paid garden consultations and installations



Qualified candidates will exhibit the following:

- Experienced vegetable gardener, enough to be able to teach to others
- Has firm understanding of race, social justice and food systems work.
- Experience facilitating and educating groups, including of volunteers, preferably in a farm or garden setting.
- Is a team member with the ability to work and effectively communicate with diverse populations, ages, and personalities.
- Highly competent in use of computers (Mac & PC both) and comfort using technology on a daily basis.
- Organized in record keeping, data collection, paperwork, and data entry.
- Flexibility to work non-traditional hours in non-traditional settings, including evening and weekends as scheduled.
- Clean background check, driving record, and valid drivers license will be required. Ability to drive trucks and potentially a trailer a must.
- Commitment to sustainability and environmental friendly practices.
- Creativity, flexibility, resourcefulness and positive thinking.

Physical Demands/Work Environment:

- Bend, stoop, kneel, sit and/or stand for extended periods of time
- Able to lift 40 lbs.
- Must be able to work outdoors in different and sometimes inclement weather conditions.
- Must be able to teach in a garden or urban farm setting, which may be dusty or dirty, or have slippery surfaces.

Additional preferred characteristics:

- Preference given to Ypsilanti-area residents or those willing to relocate to and engage in the Ypsilanti community.
- Nutrition/cooking knowledge a plus.
- Experience in nonprofit and community-based organizations.
 - Someone who wants to grow professionally with the organization.

Compensation: \$14.50/hour. No benefits.

Schedule: Average hours 28 hrs/week. Seasonal: April-October

To Apply: Preferred application deadline is March 1st. Preferred start date is April 1.. Submit resume and cover letter, complete with reference contact information, to Amanda Edmonds, Executive Director at apply@growinghope.net. Samples of past work welcome, though not required.

Growing Hope is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate potential employees based on race, creed, age, color, disability, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation or marital status. We encourage the following groups to apply: people of color and individuals who possess an in--depth understanding of poverty or economic hardship.