



Unpaid Internship with Growing Hope HOME VEGETABLE GARDENING INTERNSHIP

About Growing Hope:

Growing Hope is a 15-year-old non-profit organization in Ypsilanti, Michigan dedicated to helping people improve their lives and communities through gardening and increasing access to healthy food. Our commitment to increased access to healthy foods is demonstrated through our Growing Hope Center urban demonstration gardens and production farm. We operate a 1.4 acre urban farm near downtown Ypsilanti. The farm is a multi-purpose space used for organic practice production and acts as an educational space for youth, volunteers and community members.

Areas of interest:

Food Security, Organic Farming, Backyard Gardening

Positions Description:

This experience will provide interns with a fundamental understanding of garden and plant care, and Growing Hope's garden and farm programs, as well as the larger food system. Interns will learn about sustainable production of the various production styles at the Growing Hope Urban Farm including backyards garden and market garden. Additionally interns will learn about the broader context of the food system, such as local and national policy, historical and systematic racism and of course the solutions and inspiring work to create a better system.

The intern will meet with our Farm and Garden Manager at the beginning of their internship to set down specific learning goals and evaluation points. Internships will be partially tailored around everyone's individual interests and capacity. Interns must be able to commit to showing up reliably regardless of the weather. As Growing Hope runs many concurrent programs on a tight schedule, it is very important for interns to show up on time and stay for the duration of their shift.

This internship focuses on our Home Vegetable Gardening Program which has helped over 300 low or no income families grow their own food in their backyards. The intern will support our Garden Assistant in installing gardens, growing and distributing seedlings, and having fun!

This internship tasks include:

- Supporting families and sites through sharing gardening resources
- Building new raised bed vegetable gardens in participant's homes
- Offering advice and gardening support to new gardeners
- Growing and distributing seedlings to new gardeners

Qualifications

- Looking to learn new skills and are willing to make mistakes

- Must be able to lift 40 lbs.
- Loves meeting new people
- Love being outside and are not afraid of the rain or cold or heat
- Have reliable transportation
- Know themselves and how they learn best
- Can work independently
- Can clean up after themselves and maintain an organized clean workspace
- Have a passion for food justice and want to learn more

Unpaid Availability:

Starts: April 2nd through mid-July for a minimum of 10 hours/week, for at least 12 weeks. Preference given to someone who can stay until end of August. Ability to work Wednesdays 9-4pm, plus other hours based on your schedule.

We understand that some people may have an interest in the position, but may not be able to make all of the above hours. We are happy to talk through scheduling with candidates, and see if the position can work.

If intern would like to add more hours to their internship they may also choose another area of interest to work on, such as:

- Farm Hacks & Construction
- Rain gardens
- Pollinator gardening
- Composting
- Edible Landscaping
- Rainwater collection
- Record Keeping
- Lean Farming
- Educational Signage
- Social Media based education

To apply: Send cover letter (1 page) and resume, that includes what you hope to gain during your internship, and what you think you could most contribute, as well as your **available hours and length of commitment**. Include name of internship you are applying for in the **subject line** and cover letter. Please send these documents to apply@growinghope.net or drop them off in person to the Growing Hope Center at 922 West Michigan Avenue, Ypsilanti, MI 48197.

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.