



Unpaid Internship with Growing Hope PROPAGATION & SEASON EXTENSION

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:

The experience will provide interns with a fundamental understanding of garden and plant care, 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 is great for someone who loves plants and is detailed oriented. This is a great opportunity for folks who want to be able to enjoy nature without being outside in the snow- there's nothing like going into a warm and humid hoop house when it's freezing outside.

This internship focuses on:

- Propagation and greenhouse management. You will build an intimate knowledge of what it takes to grow and care for seedlings at Growing Hope.
- Basic season extension techniques: use of cold frames, germination chambers, cold frames, row cover, etc.
- Learn to read and follow a crop plan for weekly seeding that leads to a bountiful weekly harvest.

Qualifications

- Looking to learn new skills and are willing to make mistakes
- Attention to detail a must
- Sustain a fast pace of work for multiple hours
- 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:

Winter Term: Available Starting January 20th, for a minimum of 8 hour/week, for at least 12 weeks. Must be available during the following times, Tuesday & Thursdays 1- 5 PM or Fridays 10-12 AM

Spring Term: Available Starting April 1st 2019 for a minimum of 8 hour/week, for at least 12 weeks.

Summer Term: Starts June 1st, 2019, for a minimum of 10 hours/week, for at least 12 weeks.

Fall Term: Starts September 1st, 2019, for a minimum of 10 hours/week, for at least 12 weeks.

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 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.