



Part-Time Position with Growing Hope FIELD TRIPS & VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT

About Growing Hope

Growing Hope is a 15-year-old non-profit organization rooted in Ypsilanti, Michigan whose mission is to foster an equitable and sustainable local food system that empowers all people to grow, buy, sell, prepare, and eat nourishing food. We envision a community where all people--particularly those with barriers due to race, class, culture, language, ability, and mobility--have access to nourishing local food that is culturally appropriate and affordable. People can grow and prepare their own harvests, and may earn a living as a food grower, producer, or entrepreneur.

Our areas of work include Youth & Schools, Farm & Garden, Farmers Markets, and Food Entrepreneurship. This position will work out of the Growing Hope Center and Urban Farm, a 1.4 acre property in the heart of Ypsilanti. The Urban Farm is a multi-purpose space used for organic-practice production, garden demonstration, and youth and adult education and events.

Organizational Culture and Values

Our culture is rooted in our values: Transformation, Education, Justice & Equity, Placemaking, and Integrity. We commit to upholding inclusive practices and policies while creating space for courageous conversations as a staff and within our community. Instead of simply providing services, we aim to leverage the vast resources already within our community in order to empower and partner with participants and customers. We believe that community members have the ability to make their own decisions about their health and wellness goals and that Growing Hope acts as a resource to increase access and opportunities to meet these goals.

About the Position

The Field Trip & Volunteer Assistant will manage on-site volunteer workdays for youth and adults, as well as youth field trips at our Urban Farm. We are seeking a well-organized person who is passionate about changing the food system through hands on garden-based education. This is a position for someone who has a strong background in place-based education, experience with sustainable gardening including growing food and flowers, and experience working with volunteers and youth in a garden setting.

Volunteers are an integral part of Growing Hope's work as they support every angle of our mission throughout the entire year. We will host two volunteer work days a week, each including an introduction to Growing Hope, hands-on garden work, and discussions or activities about food justice issues or community building.

Growing Hope's field trip program is designed to bring youth, K-12th grade, to our Urban Farm to learn about gardening, seasonal eating, nutrition and the environment. Additionally, we are beginning to



offer STEM-based lessons that integrate with classroom curricula standards. The Assistant needs to have experience working with youth while using place-based and popular education practices, group facilitation/management skills, and basic gardening/culinary knowledge.

This is a seasonal part-time position that will begin April 29th and go through October with a Tuesday to Saturday schedule. The Field Trips & Volunteer Assistant will report to our Director of Programs, and work closely with the Youth & Schools Manager and Urban Farm Assistant.

Responsibilities Include:

- **Youth Field Trips:**
 - Promote and schedule youth field trips to our farm for the summer/fall season.
 - Review and complete lesson plans for field trips programs.
 - Facilitate scheduled field trips.
 - Collect participant data and support evaluation and reporting.
- **Volunteers:**
 - Communicate with volunteer groups and individuals through Growing Hope's volunteer website.
 - Plan group and individual volunteer activities based on seasonal garden needs.
 - Lead volunteer days weekly, including set-up and clean-up.
 - Coordinate with local organizations seeking to co-sponsor volunteer days.
- **Interns:** Work with Program Director to manage and teach interns as applicable.
- **General Support:** Support staff in preparing site for special events, tours, etc.

Qualifications

- Passion for and experience with growing food and flowers using organic practices.
- Experience with formal and informal youth education.
- Experience working with volunteers.
- Experience and comfort with simple cooking, with either experience or excitement to learn about use of whole and seasonal items.
- Familiar with using Microsoft Word, Google Docs and Google Drive, and E-mail.
- Creativity, flexibility, resourcefulness and positive thinking.
- Able to work collaboratively with people from diverse backgrounds in terms of race, ethnicity, gender (including non-binary), sexual orientation, class, and religion.
- Ability to work independently and with a team.
- Work in various weather conditions such as heat, humidity, wind, rain, etc.
- Reliable transportation (this includes bus, personal vehicle etc.)



Qualities that will enhance your application:

- Experience with lesson planning.
- Interest to grow professionally within the organization.
- Training in place-based education and popular education practices.
- Belief in asset-based, social justice approach.
- Knowledge of the food system, farm & food policy and the local food justice movement.
- Understanding of and experience talking about racism and social justice work.
- Reside in Ypsilanti, or surrounding areas.

Hours & Compensation: This is an hourly position, \$16.00 per hour, approximately 25 hours a week. In addition to monetary compensation, staff are welcome to take home extra produce and flowers from the Growing Hope Urban Farm.

To Apply: Submit resume or description of relevant experience and letter detailing your interest in the position, with 3 references (professional or personal) to **Apply@growinghope.net** Applications accepted until Friday, March 29th at 5:00 pm. No formal education is required for this position.

Growing Hope encourages people of color and individuals who possess an in-depth understanding of poverty or economic hardship to apply. We welcome a diverse pool of applicants and make employment decisions on the basis of merit. We do not discriminate potential employees based on race, creed, age, physical ability, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation or marital status. Accommodations will be made so that the application process and position is made accessible for qualified applicants.