



Unpaid Internship with Growing Hope GROWING FLOWERS FOR EARNED REVENUE INTERNSHIP

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, 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.

Positions Description:

The experience will provide an intern with a fundamental understanding of garden and plant care and Growing Hope's garden and farm programs. Through assisting with maintaining our cut flower garden, participating in harvest, grading and delivery the intern will learn about sustainable production of the various production styles at the Growing Hope Urban Farm. Additionally, the intern will learn about the broader context of the food system, such as local and national policy, historical and systematic racism within the food system, and the solutions and inspiring work to create a better system.

The intern will meet with our Director of Programs at the beginning of their internship to set specific learning goals and evaluation points. Internships will be partially tailored around everyone's individual interests and capacity. The intern 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 the intern to show up on time and stay for the duration of their shift.

The following responsibilities are included in this internship:

- Growing and harvesting specialty cut flowers.
- Learning about flower quality and stage of harvest and post-harvest handling.

- Learn about and experience the Michigan Flower Growers Co-op market (where Growing Hope sells our cut flowers).
- Learn about marketing, other flower growers and the flower industry.

Qualifications

- Detail oriented and likes mastering a task.
- Wants to learn how to be an efficient grower.
- Looking to learn new skills and are willing to make mistakes.
- Must be able to lift 20 lbs.
- 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.
- Can clean up after themselves and maintain an organized clean workspace.
- Have a passion for food justice and want to learn more!

Qualities that will enhance your application:

- Knowledge of the Ypsilanti community
- Comfort and experience discussing racism, environmental justice and social justice issues.
- Can work independently.
- Familiar with using Google Docs, Drive, and email.
- Know themselves and how they learn best.

Unpaid Availability:

Mandatory: Tuesdays 9am – 2:30 pm. Optional Days: Wednesday 6am-12pm or Fridays 8am-12pm

Spring Term: Starts May 2, 2019, for a minimum of 10 hour/week, for at least 12 weeks. *Intern applicants who can serve for the summer term as well will be given priority.

Summer Term: Starts July 15, 2019 for a minimum of 10 hrs./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: Please provide a list of relevant experience or resume and cover letter (1 page) that includes what you hope to gain during your internship, and what you think you could most contribute. Also include your desired hours and schedule availability. Please send these documents to apply@growinghope.net or drop them off in person to the Growing Hope Urban Farm at 922 West Michigan Avenue, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Applications accepted until April 6th, 2019. 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.