



Unpaid Internship with Growing Hope HOME VEGETABLE GARDENING 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.

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.

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 backyard gardens and market gardens. 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 Program Director 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 Programs 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: March 2019 through mid-July for a minimum of 8 hours/week, for at least 12 weeks. Preference given to someone who can stay until end of August.

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.