



FARM INTERN

Location: Ypsilanti, MI (in-person work required)

Compensation: \$1000/month stipend

Additional Perks: Free produce, flowers, and seedlings from our Urban Farm

Start Date: Seasonal, Aug 01 or ASAP - Nov 30, 2023

Schedule: Average 20 hours/week.

Growing Hope is a 20-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. Our programs primarily emanate from our two main spaces: The Growing Hope Urban Farm and the Ypsilanti Farmers MarketPlace. The Urban Farm is a multi-purpose space used for organic-practice production, garden demonstration, youth and adult education, and events. The Ypsilanti Farmers MarketPlace hosts the Ypsi Area Online Market and the Growing Hope Incubator Kitchen.

Our work 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. Our aim is 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 conduit, bridging the gap between our community and its goals.

Position Description:

The Farm Intern will primarily play a support role for the Farm Manager as they bring Growing Hope's vision to life through the cultivation of the outdoor portions of our 1.4 acre urban property in the heart of Ypsilanti, including an urban farm (including 30x96 foot hoophouse) and surrounding grounds/landscape management. The farm is a multi-purpose space used for organic-practice production, demonstration, education and events, and the Farm Intern will be assist in keeping the Growing Hope Urban Farm grounds, farm, and garden areas productive, presentable and inviting to the public at all times.

We're looking for someone who loves working outside and getting their hands dirty! This is a physically demanding position that will require comfort outdoors in all weather conditions.

Position Responsibilities:

- Assist with all aspects of planting and tending the garden, including transplanting, seeding, weeding, thinning, fertilizing, organic pest control, pruning, harvesting, compost management, etc
- Support maintenance of overall site (lawn, grounds maintenance, hoophouse maintenance, et al)
- Prepare new beds for planting

- Support and promote food safety throughout the farm and harvest process
- Harvest, wash, bundle crops
- Keep detailed records and documentation; assist with farm certifications as needed
- Assist in transport of produce
- Assist in coordinating retail sales and donations
- Work with volunteers, visitors, and interns, orienting them to Growing Hope, our site, and to projects or tasks

Qualifications:

- At least 1-2 seasons experience in vegetable farming.
- Kind, calm, and open demeanor and attitude towards work, colleagues, and community
- Energetic approach to difficult tasks and ideas
- Comfort and willingness to learn basic carpentry, plus comfort and willingness to tinker with and fix tools, etc.
- Ability to lift 20-40 lbs repeatedly, plus shoveling, bending, crouching, kneeling, and walking.
- Skilled oral and written communicator. Comfortable communicating in person, by phone, email, in front of groups, and to a variety of audiences.
- Willingness to learn hard skills on the job.
- Basic understanding of the U.S. food system, the injustices in its structure and function, and the major contributors to that injustice. A deep desire to build a food system that's led by people in our community who are most harmed by the current system (BIPOC, working class, disabled, elderly, etc.).

Qualities that will enhance the application:

- Knowledge/interest in food justice/food sovereignty
- Background/knowledge in Ypsilanti
- Previous experience with Growing Hope's programs
- Carpentry skills and experience using power tools

To Apply: Submit a resume and cover letter to apply@growinghope.net. Preference given to applications received by **July 31, 2023**, but the position will remain open until filled. Letters can be submitted in the form of a written document, video or audio format.

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.