



2025 Urban Farm Internship

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

Compensation: \$1000/month stipend

Additional Perks: knowledge, produce, flowers, and seedlings from the farm

Start Date: Seasonal, Mid Feb - May 30, 2024

Application due: Feb 2nd

Schedule: 15 - 20 hours/week.

About Us

Growing Hope is a 22-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 Ypsilanti Downtown Farmers Market, the Ypsi Area Online Market, and the Growing Hope Incubator Kitchen.

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

This is a part-time, paid internship.

The Farm Intern will primarily play a support role for the Farm Manager. Together they will cultivate the outdoor portions of our 1.4 acre urban property in the heart of Ypsilanti. The farm is a multi-purpose space used for organic-practice production, demonstration, education and events. The Farm Intern will be assisting in keeping the Growing Hope Urban Farm grounds, farm, and garden areas productive, presentable and inviting to the public at all times. In the spring (Feb-April) you will work alongside the Farm Manager to create a home and cultivate seedlings for our 2025 growing season. The seedlings produced on the farm will supply the produce grown on the farm, the home vegetable garden program, community gardens, senior residential areas and other community home gardeners not in our programming.

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

Responsibilities will Include:

- Farm Maintenance: Assist with all aspects of planting and tending the garden, including transplanting, seeding, weeding, thinning, fertilizing, organic pest control, pruning, trellising, harvesting, compost management, etc. Prepare new beds for planting
- Site Maintenance: Lawn mowing, weed whipping, grounds maintenance, hoop house maintenance.
- Support and promote food safety throughout the farm and harvest process
- Harvest, wash, bundle crops
- Keep detailed records and documentation; assist with building bank of on farm duties as needed

Qualifications:

- Kind, calm, and open demeanor and attitude towards work, colleagues, and community
- Energetic approach to difficult tasks and ideas
- Comfort with/willingness to learn basic carpentry, plus comfort and willingness to tinker with and fix tools, etc.
- Comfort with/willingness to find the comfort in potentially uncomfortable climates
- Ability to lift 20-40 lbs repeatedly, plus comfort with shoveling, bending over, 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:

- Experience growing food
- Experience with social justice
- Previous kitchen work experience/farm work experience.
- Carpentry skills and experience using power tools
- Can clean up after themselves and maintain an organized clean workspace
- Comfort and willingness to tinker with and fix tools, etc.
- Good Farm lunch Cook!
- Previous experience with Growing Hope's programs

Benefits:

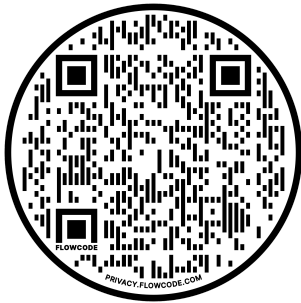
- Fresh produce and herbs, seedlings, flowers
- On farm hands on educational opportunity skill-building
- Beautiful somatic experiences outdoors
- Community relationships
- Blessings of growing your own food, you will be able to reap what you sow.

- On farm skill-building through setting up irrigation systems and other building projects.
- Access to a sweet library of small farm books and educational resources

Schedule

- Mid Feb - End of May 2025
 - The internship will break from June-July and start again in Aug-November (another round of applications will go out in June/July; you are welcome to apply for that round as well.)
- 15-20 hours a week (some weekends)
- Holidays off

To Apply: Please fill out our application online: <https://bit.ly/FarmIntern25>



If you have any questions, please contact Farm Manager Christopher Hallett at christopher@growinghope.net

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 against 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.