



2022 Garden Internship

About Us

Growing Hope is an 18-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, unpaid internship.

The Gardens Intern will primarily play a support role for the Garden Manager as they focus on offering free gardening resources to Ypsi community members. The Home Vegetable Gardens (HVG) Program installs free garden beds, soil, and seedlings along with support via workshops and mentorship. This position also collaborates with the Farm team to care for the grounds and provide a welcoming and inclusive urban farm/garden space in Ypsilanti.

We're looking for someone who loves working with people *and* getting their hands dirty! The position requires talking about sustainable/organic gardening practices. The Garden team connects the dots between land, housing, food, labor, and social justice. Their main goal is to offer resources and help build

the capacity of Ypsi residents to build towards food sovereignty. This is a physically demanding position that will require comfort outdoors in all weather conditions.

Responsibilities Include:

- Coordinate with HVG participants and mentors (*soil samples, scheduling, prep work, follow through, etc.*)
- Prepping garden materials and loading Growing Hope truck with supplies
- Seedling care and supporting on-farm tasks where possible
- Working alongside teen staff
- Coordinating volunteers
- Installing garden beds and doing site visits
- Opportunities to help with or co-lead farm and garden workshops - community education
- Distributing free resources for food sovereignty and accessibility in Ypsi

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.
- Ability to lift 20-40 lbs repeatedly, plus comfort with 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:

- Experience growing food
- Experience with social justice
- Carpentry skills and experience using power tools

Benefits

- Fresh produce and herbs, seedlings, flowers
- Educational opportunity and skill-building
- Beautiful somatic experiences outdoors
- Community relationships

Schedule

- May 2nd - August 19th
- 12-20 hours a week
- Holidays off
- Saturday availability

To Apply: Submit a resume and cover letter to charlotte@growinghope.net. Preference given to applications received by **March 28th, 2022**, 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.