



Unpaid Internship with Growing Hope Youth Field Trip Intern

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.

Areas of interest:

Food Security, Farming/Gardening, Youth Education, Place-Based Education

Positions Description:

Growing Hope is offering an internship opportunity to a student or community member interested in learning about youth education in a farm or garden setting. The experience will provide the intern with a fundamental understanding of working with youth using place-based educational practices. The internship will provide opportunities to learn about youth management, ServSafe procedures and basic gardening and farming knowledge. 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. All interns will meet with our Youth & Schools Manager 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.

Intern Activities:

- Help plan and lead field trips (PreK-12) for youth at the Growing Hope Center.
- Assist in teaching students about various topics including, but not limited to, nutrition, composting, gardening, food systems, and cooking.
- Assist managing educational gardens.
- Learn about safety procedures for preparing food in a commercial kitchen.
- Learn about the broader context of the food system, including local and national policy, historical and systematic racism and solutions and inspiring work to create a better system.

Interns may also choose from the below topics to focus on:

- Garden Maintenance
- Curriculum Building
- Youth Garden Planning
- Quantitative and Qualitative Data Collection
- Nutrition Education
- ServSafe Education
- STEM Education
- Program Evaluation

Qualifications

- Experience working with youth in an educational setting.
- Training and/or experience with lesson planning and evaluation.
- Understanding of experiential, popular or place-based education.
- Good communication skills.
- Looking to learn new skills and are willing to make mistakes.
- Love being outside and are not afraid of the rain, cold or heat.
- Is flexible and can easily adapt to situations.
- Have a reliable mode of transportation.
- Can pass a background check.
- Have a passion for food justice and want to learn more!

Qualities that will enhance your application:

- Training in education, childhood development or youth development.
- 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:

Ability to work Monday-Friday and/or Saturdays

Spring/Summer Term: Available April 1, 2019. 10 hours/week for 18 weeks.

Summer/Fall Term: Available August 1, 2019. 10 hours/week for 13 weeks.

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. Indicate which internship term you are applying for. 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 March 17th for Spring/Summer term. Applications accepted until July 19th for Summer/Fall term. 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.