



Position: Braddock Farms Senior Apprentice

Deadline to Apply: Monday, January 21, 2013

Organization Description:

Grow Pittsburgh was established in 2005. The organization incorporated as a nonprofit organization in 2008 after four successful programs had been established: *Braddock Farms*, a social enterprise that raises vegetables for local restaurants and provides jobs and locally grown food for Braddock residents; *The Edible Schoolyard*, an elementary school gardening program that uses the seed to table model to educate children about where their food comes from through physical gardens; *The Frick Project*, a greenhouse and garden operation that grows plant starts for local garden initiatives as well as produce for restaurant sales; and *The Summer Intern* program that uses agriculture as a platform for leadership skill development and environmental education. In 2010, the organization launched *City Growers*. This initiative is meant to encourage community vegetable gardening by providing technical assistance in the set up of gardens on vacant land in the city.

Senior Apprentice Overview: For the 2013 growing season Grow Pittsburgh is seeking a senior apprentice for our Braddock Farms site. The senior apprentice will learn varied aspects of vegetable and fruit production from bed preparation to seed starting, harvesting, and marketing.

Timeline: Approximately March 4, 2013 to November 22, 2013

Hours and Compensation: The senior apprentice will work up to 30 hours per week including early mornings and Saturdays. Compensation is at the rate of \$10/hour

Responsibilities: The senior apprentice will work directly with Braddock Farms Manager Marshall Hart to learn and execute all aspects of small-scale, sustainable, urban produce farming.

- Spring work will entail projects including prepping beds, seeding, and transplanting, as well as harvesting and marketing. As the senior apprentice acquires skills and knowledge, they will have the opportunity to work independently on site, while being supported by Grow Pittsburgh staff.
- In summer, the senior apprentice will perform additional seeding, transplanting, harvesting, and general crop maintenance. The weekly farm stand and possibly a low-income CSA will begin in June; the senior apprentice will be involved with the organization and operation of

these programs. By this point in the season, the senior apprentice will be expected to work independently on a regular basis as well as manage others who may be working.

- The fall season will include seeding crops for winter in the hoop house space, along with continued harvesting and marketing. The senior apprentice will assist in clearing and prepping garden beds for winter.

Educational Aspects: The senior apprentice will learn about sustainable urban agriculture through experiencing the growing season first-hand. The senior apprentice will also gain valuable experience in the marketing of produce through various sales outlets including restaurants, a farm cooperative, a weekly farm stand and possibly a weekly low-income CSA. There will also be opportunities and funding available to attend relevant workshops in the Pittsburgh area. The senior apprentice will work with the public at the farm on our volunteer days. Opportunities to speak to school groups and others touring the farm will be available as they come up. Topics that the senior apprentice can expect to explore at the gardening sites, throughout the growing season include:

- Pest and disease ID, management, and control
- Identifying and attracting beneficial insects
- Increasing soil fertility for improved crop production
- Composting
- Utilizing various hand tools for task efficiency
- Sustainable, chemical-free vegetable-growing techniques for small urban spaces and hoop houses
- Watering techniques and irrigation systems
- Harvesting and crop storage techniques
- Marketing to restaurants, and through co-ops and farm stands
- Planning and harvesting crops for weekly CSA
- Tending to a small chicken flock

Requirements: Applicants should have a strong interest in sustainable and organic agriculture, vegetable gardening, and urban farming. Some previous growing experience is preferred. Those interested should be self-motivated, punctual, and attentive to detail. They should also possess a strong work ethic, the ability to follow instructions, follow through on details, and work efficiently. As the site that the senior apprentice will be working on is open to the public they should be open to interacting in a friendly manner with the public. Access to a car would be helpful for doing deliveries and farm stand set up.

To Apply:

Interested applicants should email a cover letter and resume to Marshall Hart at:

Marshall@growpittsburgh.org

For more information about Grow Pittsburgh and our other projects visit:

www.growpittsburgh.org