



Position: Seedling and Farm Apprentice

Position Reports to: Greenhouse and Shiloh Farm Manager and Braddock Farms Manager

Deadline to Apply: Monday, January 20, 2014

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 Urban Farmers in Training (UFIT)* 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.

Summary of Position:

For the 2014 growing season Grow Pittsburgh is seeking an apprentice for our sites at The Frick Art & Historical Center Greenhouse, Shiloh Farm, and Braddock Farms. The apprentice will learn varied aspects of seedling and vegetable production by working at multiple Grow Pittsburgh production sites over the course of a season.

Site Location and Hours:

Frick Art & Historical Center Greenhouse: March 3 – May 30; 30 hours/week

Braddock Farms: May 31 – October 17, 15 hours/week

Compensation: \$10/hour

Duration: March 3, 2014 to October 17, 2014

Key Areas of Responsibilities:

The apprentice will spend the spring working directly with Greenhouse & Shiloh Farm Manager Cassandra Morgan to learn all aspects of seedling production and marketing. The apprentice will spend the summer and fall working directly with Braddock Farms Manager Marshall Hart to experience sustainable, urban vegetable and fruit production.

From March through May, the apprentice can expect to experience the following:

- Seeding, potting and transplanting herbs and vegetables in the greenhouse & gardens
- Watering seedlings and crops, both manually and with irrigation systems
- Following daily seeding schedules to plant seeds and transplants
- Keeping clear records & maintaining communication with Grow Pittsburgh Manager
- Identifying and controlling pests and diseases using organic methods
- Harvesting and preparing produce for sale to restaurants, a local farm cooperative and a small weekly CSA
- Marketing seedlings at the greenhouse and at special events (primarily on weekends in May for seedling sales)
- Interacting with the public on a daily basis
- Prepping outdoor gardens for spring and summer planting

From June through October, the apprentice can expect to experience the following:

- Farm bed preparation including weeding, cultivation, tilling, fertilization
- Direct seeding, transplanting, and succession techniques
- Crop maintenance including weeding, cultivating, mulching, irrigating, foliar feeding, and side dressing
- Keeping clear records & maintaining communication with Grow Pittsburgh Manager
- Identifying and controlling pests and diseases using organic methods
- Harvesting and preparing produce for sale to restaurants, a local farm cooperative and a small weekly CSA
- Cover cropping
- Hoop house growing
- Interacting with the public on a daily basis

*Please refer to the end of the announcement for a list of skills the apprentice can expect to learn.

Qualifications:

- Strong interest in sustainable and organic agriculture, vegetable gardening, and urban farming. Previous growing experience is not required
- Experience with marketing or education is preferred
- Self-motivated, strong work ethic and punctual
- Ability to follow instructions, follow through on details, and work efficiently
- Willingness to work in a greenhouse, outdoor gardens and indoors in an office setting
- Able to work for extended periods in a hot and humid environment, as well as in inclement weather that occurs with the seasons
- Out-going, friendly and able to interact with visitors on a daily basis
- Access to a car is required for doing deliveries, attending events and traveling between sites

To Apply:

Interested applicants should email a cover letter and resume to both Cassandra Morgan at cassandra@growpittsburgh.org and Marshall Hart at marshall@growpittsburgh.org. In your email subject line please state: "Seedling and Farm Apprentice."

For more information about Grow Pittsburgh and our other projects visit:
www.growpittsburgh.org

Skills the Apprentice Can Expect to Learn

Planning

- Seed selection and estimation of quantity needed
- Crop rotation
- Soil test interpretation

Soil Building

- Creating and using compost
- Adding amendments
- Mulching
- Cover cropping

Planting

- Bed preparation
- Direct-seeding techniques
- Transplanting techniques
- Seeding for Transplants
- Propagation from cuttings
- Understanding and following seeding schedules
- Succession planting

Crop Maintenance

- Weed ID and weeding tactics
- Cultivation
- Watering and irrigation
- Trellising
- Fertilizing
- Pruning and dividing perennial crops
- Crop management based on growing conditions
- Correct tool and equipment usage and maintenance
- Season extension practices

Pests, Beneficials, & Disease

- Common vegetable pest and beneficial insect ID
- Common vegetable disease ID
- Control of pests and disease through organic management techniques

Harvesting and Processing

- How and when to harvest
- GP produce specifications, including processing and packaging guidelines

Marketing

- understand general marketing techniques used to distribute farm produce through:
 - Farm Stand: direct to customer
 - CSA: direct to customer
 - Penn's Corner Farm Alliance: restaurant and individual customer sales through a farm cooperative
 - Direct to restaurant
- Direct interaction with customers and restaurants

Record-Keeping and Evaluation

- Day to day, on-farm record keeping
- Seed inventory
- End of season variety evaluation

General

- Understanding of main tenets of organic farming
- Comprehension of key vocabulary terms
- Awareness of current organic growing philosophies