



Apprentice Announcement

Apprentice Position: Braddock Farms Apprentice

Position Reports to: Braddock Farms Manager

Organization Overview:

Grow Pittsburgh is an urban agriculture non-profit with a mission to teach people how to grow food and promote the benefits gardening brings to our neighborhoods. We believe access to locally-grown, chemical-free fruits and vegetables is a right, not a privilege. We envision the day when everyone in our city and region grows and eats fresh, local and healthy food.

Apprentice Overview:

For the 2015 growing season Grow Pittsburgh is seeking an apprentice for our Braddock Farms site. The apprentice will be involved with all aspects of the production site from starting seedlings to the day-to-day maintenance of the farm to planning for the 2016 season.

Timeline: March 9, 2015 - October 30, 2015, approximately 34 hours/week

Location: Braddock Farms, Braddock Ave and 10th St., Braddock PA, 15104, with some time spent at our greenhouse in Point Breeze.

Schedule:

March & April:

Monday 9-4

Tuesday 9-4

Wednesday 9-4

Thursday 9-4

Friday 9-3

May - September:

Sunday 7-2

Monday 7-2

Tuesday 7-2

Wednesday 7-2
Thursday 7-1

alternating with:

Tuesday 7-2
Wednesday 7-2
Thursday 7-2
Friday 7-2
Saturday 9-3

October:

Sunday 8-3
Monday 8-3
Tuesday 8-3
Wednesday 8-3
Thursday 8-2

Saturday 9-3
alternating with
Tuesday 8-3
Wednesday 8-3
Thursday 8-3
Friday 8-3

Compensation: \$10/hour

Responsibilities:

The apprentice will work directly with Braddock Farms Manager Marshall Hart to experience varied aspects of small-scale, sustainable, urban produce production. The apprentice will help execute the weekly sale of produce through various outlets including restaurants, a local farm cooperative, weekly farm stands and a small weekly CSA. Additional responsibilities include assisting with volunteer and tour groups. The apprentice will support their on-site farming experience with additional educational opportunities like rural farm visits, farm-based workshops and the ongoing study of relevant agricultural topics. Throughout the season the apprentice can expect to experience the following:

Production:

- Seeding, potting and transplanting herbs and vegetables in the greenhouse and gardens
- 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
- Utilizing cover crops, compost, mulch and organic amendments to improve soil fertility
- Identifying and controlling pests and diseases using organic methods

Marketing:

- Harvesting, washing and packaging produce for sales through farm stand, CSA, Penns Corner Farm Alliance, and direct restaurant sales
- Marketing produce both at the weekly farm stand and special events as they come up
- Keeping detailed sales records using online database & maintaining communication with Grow Pittsburgh site managers
- Interacting with the public on a daily basis

Community Outreach and Education:

- Organizing and executing tours of the farm for visitors and school groups
- Managing volunteer groups or individuals

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

Requirements:

Applicants should have a strong interest in sustainable and organic agriculture, vegetable gardening, and urban farming. Previous growing experience is not required. Those interested should be self-motivated, punctual, and should enjoy working with people. They should also possess a strong work ethic, the ability to follow instructions, follow through on details, and work efficiently. This position requires work in the greenhouse, outdoor garden and in an office setting; therefore, candidates should be flexible and adaptable in their work environment. As all of the sites the apprentice will be working on are open to the public, they should be willing to interact in a friendly manner with visitors on a daily basis.

To Apply:

Deadline: All applications must be received by January 12, 2015.

Option 1: Email a completed application to Marshall Hart at:

marshall@growpittsburgh.org

Please note in your email subject line: “Braddock Farms Senior Apprentice Application”

Option 2: Mail or deliver a completed application to Marshall Hart at:

Marshall Hart

Grow Pittsburgh
6587 Hamilton Ave. #2W
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

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
- 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