Urban Farm Apprenticeship Application

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| General Apprenticeship Description |
| Grow Pittsburgh is a non-profit organization with a mission to teach people how to grow food and promote the benefits that gardens bring to our neighborhoods. At Grow Pittsburgh’s production sites, we grow seedlings, vegetables, and fruits naturally without synthetic pesticides or fertilizers. The produce is sold to the community through a seasonal farm stand and a small Community Supported Agriculture program, as well as to restaurants in the Pittsburgh area.The apprentice will learn varied aspects of small-scale, sustainable, urban produce production. Additional tasks will include attending educational field trips and completing a certified environmental literacy curriculum. Upon successful completion of the program, the apprentice will receive a $600 completion bonus. |
| Qualifications |
| Applicants do not need to have a background in farming or gardening. We are looking for the following qualifications:* Be 19-25 years old (exceptions made for highly motivated and qualified 18 year olds)
* Strong interest in Grow Pittsburgh’s mission and vision.
* Positive, outgoing, self-motivated and hardworking.
* Excellent planning and organization skills
* Quick learner
* Able to follow directions and work as a team
* Willingness to work in the greenhouse, outdoors in the garden, and indoors in an office setting
* Desire to interact and work with people on a daily basis
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| Apprenticeship Details |
| Hours LocationSchedule | This apprenticeship averages 10 hours/week  |
| There are two different sites:* Braddock Farms (Braddock, PA)
* Frick Greenhouse and Shiloh Farm (Point Breeze/Homewood)
 |
| Mondays: 3 hours (2 pm to 5 pm)Tuesdays: 3 hours (2 pm to 5 pm)Thursdays: 4 hours (1 to 5 pm) |
| Duration | April 4, 2016 thru October 28, 2016 **MUST BE ABLE TO COMMIT TO THE ENTIRE APPRENTICESHIP**  |
| Compensation | $10/hour |
| **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

*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

Please Keep This Page for Your Records |
| Grow Pittsburgh Apprenticeship Applicant InformationPlease complete by being typed or using blue or black ink |
| Name: |
| Address: |
| Phone Number: |
| Email Address: |
| Please Check Preferred Apprenticeship Location:  □ Braddock Farms (Braddock, PA) □ The Frick Greenhouse and Shiloh Farm (Homewood) □ No Preference |
| Work Experience |
| Please list your employment history. This may include volunteer work experience. |
| Position | Employer | Dates of Employment | Description of Responsibilities |
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| Questions |
| Please respond to these questions in the space provided. If you need more space, feel free to use the lines on the back page of the application. |
| What are your hobbies and personal interests? |  |
| Why are you interested in this position?  |  |
| What specific characteristics, personality traits or skills make you a strong candidate for the apprenticeship? |  |
| What do you hope to do in the future and how might this apprenticeship help you reach your future goals? |  |
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| References |  |  |  |
| Please list the contact information for two different people that can be contacted to provide either character or employment references (at least one employment reference). If you do not have an appropriate employment reference please include an education reference (i.e. past teacher). Note: References will not be contacted until after an in-person interview has taken place. |
| **Reference 1 :*** personal/character reference
* Employment reference
* Education reference
 |
| Reference Name |  |
| Relationship to Applicant (former employer, teacher, etc.…) |  |
| Reference Phone number |  |
| Reference email address (optional) |  |
| **Reference 2 :*** personal/character reference
* Employment reference
* Education reference
 |
| Reference Name |  |
| Relationship to Applicant (former employer, teacher, etc.…) |  |
| Reference Phone number |  |
| Reference email address (optional) |  |
| To Apply |
| **Deadline:** All applications must be received by February 29, 2015.**Option 1:**  Email a completed application to Denele Hughson at: denele@growpittsburgh.orgPlease note in your email subject line: “Urban Farm Apprenticeship”**Option 2:** Mail or deliver a completed application to Denele Hughson at:Denele HughsonGrow Pittsburgh6587 Hamilton Ave. #2WPittsburgh, PA 15206 |