Grow Pittsburgh Pre-Apprenticeship at Shiloh Farm Instructions and Application

What is the Pre-Apprenticeship?

- The pre-apprenticeship is a program in partnership with Pasa Sustainable Agriculture for those who have little or no growing experience but are interested in exploring a farming career. Completing this pre-apprenticeship will give you the required experience to participate in Pasa's Diversified Vegetable Apprenticeship, which provides paid intensive farmer training by pairing participants with farms with a proven track record and a farmer-led, expert-designed curriculum.

- The curriculum is based on the core duties and skills for Pasa’s vegetable farming apprenticeship program such as plant propagation, soil fertility, crop planning, harvest and post-harvest handling, and more. More details on the pre-apprenticeship can be found here: https://pasafarming.org/soil-institute/farmer-training-development/diversified-vegetable-pre-apprenticeship/

- Participants commit to at least 4 hours a week from April 16-Nov 12, 2024, helping with: preparing fields, plantings, cultivation, harvesting and packaging crops to be distributed in the communities surrounding our farms at farm stands, donations to local groups, and other outlets.

- To graduate from the program, a pre-apprentice must complete 225 hours of on-the-job training and 25 hours of related technical instruction. Pre-apprentices can choose to work a weekly 4-hour shift or 8-hour shift. Please note that 4-hour shifts will require two seasons to complete the hour requirements and graduate from the program.

Benefits

- Participants receive a weekly CSA share of our produce in exchange for 4 hours of help. This will likely include seedlings and mushrooms in the spring before we start harvesting for farm stand season.

- Membership to Grow Pittsburgh. Membership includes: free admission to Grow Pittsburgh workshops, membership to our Garden Resource Center, and a t-shirt.

- Free admission to: Pasa workshops and the annual Pasa conference in Lancaster, PA

- Participants gain valuable experience working side by side with Grow Pittsburgh farmers.

Requirements

- Pre-apprentices must commit to a whole season.

- Must be prepared to work outside in all types of weather including heat and rain, where you’ll be on your feet and moving for hours at a time.

- Requires bending, kneeling, squatting, or lifting loads up to 40 lbs.

What's Next?

- Complete and submit the application below by March 22nd to silvan@growpittsburgh.org
Grow Pittsburgh Shiloh Farm Pre-Apprenticeship Application

Name: ________________________________  Date: ________________________________

Address (Street, City, Zip Code): ________________________________

Email: ________________________________  Phone: ________________________________

Please indicate which of the following shifts you would prefer. Select all if there is no preference.

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<th>Tuesdays 12 pm to 4 pm</th>
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Why are you interested in a pre-apprenticeship at Grow Pittsburgh?

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Do you plan on going on vacation this summer? (It’s ok, we just want a heads up about your plans! Please indicate the approximate dates you’ll be unavailable.)

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