



## Food and Farm Intern



Vermont Youth Conservation Corps  
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### Overview

The Food & Farm Intern position is an exciting opportunity to gain hands-on experience and knowledge about farming, food systems, and the link between food production, education, community development, and food security in Vermont. Farm Interns will participate in all aspects of the farm at VYCC including: greenhouse production; field crop planting, irrigation, weeding, and harvesting; marketing and delivering produce; crop planning; construction, maintenance and repair; and poultry production. Special attention is given to sustainable soil management; youth training and development; and meeting the needs of food insecure members of our community. Primary focus will be on a unique Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) model centered on food security concerns. There will also be opportunities to interact and work with VYCC Conservation Crews, VYCC School Crews, and volunteers. Farm Interns, along with the other members of the Farm Team and VYCC community, are expected to contribute to the development and maintenance of a healthy working and living community.

The Food & Farm Internship is a residential position. Depending on the exact position, interns may participate anytime beginning in April 2012 and ending in November 2012. Internships begin with an orientation to the VYCC and the Food and Farm Program. During this training, we will cover topics such as the expectations and schedule for subsequent months on the farm; the VYCC and Food & Farm Program; and how to cultivate leadership skills, youth development, and community. Much of the learning will be done through hands-on experience as interns take part in all aspects of the food production, from ecological soil management, plant propagation, to disease and pest control and raising pasture poultry. Interns will be responsible for daily chores and upkeep of the farm, and be active participants in CSA pick-ups and farmers market sales. Interns will be encouraged to work on individual projects focused on improving the farm, sustainable agriculture, education, or food justice, and be supported by the Food & Farm Coordinator in this initiative. There will be weekly farm meetings, readings on a variety of topics about agriculture, and individual monthly check-ins with the Food & Farm Coordinator where the intern's work will be assessed, concerns discussed, and guidance on individual projects provided.

## **2012 VYCC Farm Team**

The Farm Team will consist of a Food & Farm Program Coordinator, a Farm Manager, and Food and Farm Interns. The Food & Farm Coordinator will supervise interns and provide support and education regarding many aspects of the farm work. Interns will be expected to work effectively with each other, other members of the Farm Team, VYCC Headquarters Staff and Conservation Crews, VYCC School Crews, and volunteers.

### **Farm & Food Interns**

Farm & Food Interns are responsible for the day to day work that happens on a vegetable and poultry farm. Typical with all agriculture employment, the work will be physically demanding at times and require unconventional hours. A strong desire to learn, a positive attitude, and the ability to be flexible are all attributes that will serve an intern well as they participate in this exciting, important work. Some knowledge of vegetable production and animal husbandry is preferred but not required. In addition, the Food & Farm Interns will participate in trainings, workshops, and attend VYCC events.

Attributes of the ideal candidate include enthusiasm, confidence, the ability to work independently as well as part of a team, and a strong desire to learn. Like all positions at the VYCC, the Farm & Food Intern must be prepared to take on new and unexpected responsibilities that come with being part of a dynamic organization.

### **Environmental Factors**

The Food & Farm Interns will be based out of the VYCC Headquarters in the West Monitor Barn in Richmond, Vermont. The office currently houses 22 full-time staff, as well as varying numbers of interns and volunteers who assist with special projects throughout the season. The Food & farm Intern must be able to maintain focus and productivity amidst a bustling office atmosphere while sharing office space with others. The VYCC is an organization that cultivates success using a team approach.

### **Residential Program**

A two bedroom apartment at the farmhouse on-site at the VYCC in Richmond may be available to interns for the 2012 growing season. Details of individual accommodations will be discussed and agreed to as the recruiting, screening, and hiring process proceeds. Interns must abide by VYCC policies while representing the VYCC, on a VYCC worksite, or associated site which include: no drinking, smoking, or drug use; no physically intimate contact or relations with other interns; and no violent behavior.

### **The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps**

The VYCC is a non-profit service, conservation, and education organization modeled after the 1930's Civilian Conservation Corps. The VYCC instills the values of personal responsibility, hard work, education, and respect for the environment in young people. Corps Members, young adults ages 16-24, work, live, and study together in small groups, completing priority conservation and park management projects throughout Vermont under the guidance of highly-trained leaders.

The Food & Farm Program is an integral component of the VYCC and is located at our Headquarters in Richmond Vt. We seek to teach youth about the source of their food, how it is grown, and the value of maintaining a healthy lifestyle while providing fresh locally grown produce to those who are food insecure.

### **Primary Responsibilities**

- Participate in all aspects of vegetable and pasture poultry production including planning, planting, managing, harvesting, and distributing crops; and daily caretaking of chickens.
- Work with the farm crew, VYCC Conservation Crews, VYCC School Crews, partnering organizations, and volunteers.

- Participate in a unique Food Security CSA model including production and distribution of food to individuals, local food shelves, area schools, and other food access partner organizations
- Collaborate on the continued growth of the Food & Farm Program
- Participate in the development of the Food & Farm Program marketing materials
- Communicate with current Farm partnering organizations including, the Vermont Foodbank, local food shelves, area schools, and the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA)

#### **Other Responsibilities**

- Participate in trainings and workshops
- Actively participate in weekly meetings, including group readings and other learning opportunities
- Attend program events
- Work on individual projects of interest in the areas of sustainable agriculture, education, and food justice, that further the development of the Farm & Food Program

#### **Minimum Qualifications**

- Solid belief in the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps mission
- Commitment to the food system, farming, and working within the local community
- Past farm and some carpentry experience is helpful but not required
- Excellent interpersonal skills and verbal communication skills
- Dynamic personality
- Exceptional time management, organizational skills, and attention to detail
- Availability to work regular weeknights and weekends
- Ability to lift at least 50 lbs

#### **Compensation**

- Stipend commensurate with experience
- Room and partial board
- Organizational dedication to on-going professional development (monthly farm visits, NOFA workshops and trainings, etc.)

#### **Start Date**

- April, 2012 (tentative)

#### **To Apply**

Please submit a cover letter, resume, and contact information for three professional references.

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