



Community Garden Internship – Geer Street Learning Garden

BACKGROUND: The Geer Street Learning Garden is a flourishing urban green space with twelve vegetable beds, fruit trees, a small greenhouse, rain garden, pollinator garden and areas for community gatherings...all on only a quarter-acre lot! Nestled right in the community between the Old Five Points and Old North Durham Neighborhoods, our vibrant community garden directly engages neighbors and community members as both a healthy food source and dynamic educational space within our urban community.

INTERNSHIP MISSION: Geer Community Garden Interns will develop skills and knowledge in growing chemical-free vegetables from seed to harvest in a year-round intensively managed production system as well as skills for engaging the local community in education and outreach efforts. Interns will also expand their knowledge of the food system, the root causes of hunger and how Food Shuttle programs and other efforts within the community aim to end hunger.

INTERNSHIP VALUES: Our Core Values are respect, integrity, collaboration, health, equity, and service.

SCOPE OF WORK: As the Community Garden Intern, you will play a critical role in two key areas of Garden programming: 1) support garden maintenance and vegetable production and 2) assist with community engagement and outreach efforts. You will have the opportunity to engage community members whether they are volunteers, community gardeners, community partners, or neighbors in the act of growing food and building community. We have designed our training and program experience to provide interns with a strong understanding of managing a community garden and vegetable production system in an urban area that gives them a strong foundation for future positions in agriculture, food system work, or other community-centered disciplines.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Help manage all aspects of an intensively, but sustainably run garden under the guidance of the Community Garden Manager, including (but not limited to):
 - Preparing garden beds for seasonal plantings including raking, hoeing, composting, fertilizing, etc.
 - Planting and direct seeding
 - Managing weeds and insect pests
 - Watering and running irrigation
 - Spreading mulch and compost
 - Harvesting crops at the peak of health
- Assist Garden Manager with community engagement and outreach efforts
 - Help plan, organize, and facilitate community events
 - Promote events to community contacts and neighbors
 - Support educational programming including assisting garden workshops and coordinating class logistics
- Lead and work with volunteers in routine tasks to maintain the Garden
- Complete an independent project to improve the Garden and/or its programs

REQUIREMENTS:

- Enthusiasm for growing vegetables, learning about building equity within the food system, and engaging the community in these efforts.
- Interest and comfort in working outside in all types of weather around insects, plants and soil for up to several hours
- Joy for working with adults and youth of different ability levels in a cross-cultural environment
- Solid organizational skills with the ability to manage multiple tasks, set priorities, work independently and as a team
- Ability to have fun, not take themselves too seriously, make honest mistakes and learn from them
- Interested in and comfortable giving and receiving feedback on work performance and program experience
- Must be able to provide their own transportation

- Must be comfortable using body to lift, carry, kneel, sit, stand, carry, hold and perform other physical tasks outside in all types of weather conditions within the responsibilities of their role

TIME COMMITMENT: 10-15 hours/week, in-person at the garden, weekday morning or early afternoon availability required; some Saturdays or evenings may be required. Some work may be completed remotely. This is a 3 – 4 month internship based on the Spring, Summer, and Fall semesters (Jan – May, May – August, September – December).

COMPENSATION: This is an unpaid/volunteer internship.

TO APPLY: Submit an application, resume and cover letter to Susan Meador, Volunteer Services Director, susan@foodshuttle.org and use the subject line: Community Garden Internship