

TITLE: YFTP Teaching Assistant

ASSOCIATION: Inter-Faith Food Shuttle
STATUS: 22 hours weekly
START DATE: January 2012
REPORTING TO: Young Farmer Training Program Coordinator



MINORITIES ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY

Accepting applications until position is filled

About the Food Shuttle and IFFS Farm:

The Inter-Faith Food Shuttle (IFFS) pioneers innovative, transformative solutions designed to end hunger in our community. IFFS Nutrition, Farms and Garden Programs help build community health, wealth, and security by bringing our community together to EAT, GROW, COOK, SHARE, AND MOVE.

Located in Raleigh, NC, IFFS Teaching Farm offers hands-on sustainable farming education at all levels. IFFS Teaching Farm grows thousands of pounds of fresh vegetables each year for IFFS distribution to over 200 agencies across the triangle region. IFFS farm programs aren't just about growing food, they're about growing farmers and growing our community. Educational farm programming includes volunteer opportunities, farm tours, workshops for farmers and homesteaders, and a Young Farmer Training Program for teenagers.

The IFFS Young Farmer Training Program is a paid multi-year farming apprenticeship for teenagers in Wake County. IFFS hosts apprentices three days per week in sessions each Spring, Summer and Fall. Apprentices grow vegetables, herbs, mushrooms and flowers on our 6-acre Raleigh farm, design and implement profitable farm plans, market their produce while keeping good records, teach the community about farming and gardening, cook healthy meals, and advocate for a better food system. Food justice, inclusivity, meaningful economic development and environmental stewardship are pillars of YFTP.

General Function:

Under the supervision of the YFTP Coordinator and in keeping with the mission of the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle, the YFTP Teaching Assistant will support educational activities through **co-teaching, curricula planning and pilot-testing, communication, and evaluation**. It is crucial that the YFTP Teaching Assistant is able to work well with the entire farm and gardens staff, contribute to a positive learning atmosphere, and embrace a culture of creativity and open feedback that empowers apprentices while improving IFFS farming systems.

Co-teaching includes working with the IFFS team to facilitate activities/lessons/events for apprentices, volunteers, visitors, and staff. Curricula planning is a process with the IFFS team to develop and test educational programming for YFTP apprentices (and occasionally school groups or other visitors) including daily lessons, farm tours, workshops, and field trips. Communication includes regular meetings with IFFS farm staff to co-create the YFTP lesson plans, develop media (articles, video, audio, etc) about YFTP, and publicize YFTP activities/events. Evaluation includes routine feedback with apprentices and staff, weekly written comments about curricula and weekly lessons, and grant reporting.

Qualifications & Skills:

- Preferred: Two years of relevant experience in farming/outdoor education, including at least one year experience working with urban youth
- Detail-oriented organizational skills
- Curricula development experience preferred
- Demonstration of initiative, innovation, prioritization, and organizational skills
- Teaching and classroom management experience, ideally in an outdoor/farm setting, especially with non-profits and at-risk youth
- Farm education background preferred (formal coursework in sustainable agriculture)
- Excellent communication skills including group presentations and writing
- Ability to manage, empower and mentor teenage apprentices and visitors of all ages
- Experience in farm and food curriculum design
- Budgeting experience preferred
- Experience working with team of partners, managing staff and/or volunteers
- Basic Microsoft Office skills (especially excel) and web navigation skills required
- Research and program evaluation experience preferred
- Understanding of local food justice issues and commitment to IFFS mission
- Applicant must have consistent access to a reliable vehicle and a as some driving is required

Principle Responsibilities

- Be present for most YFTP sessions with the teens on farm, on field trips, etc
- Streamline curricula into standardized template and continue pilot testing various curriculum modules, and record results
- Co-develop YFTP curricula and workshop/field trip series
- Co-teach farming/food lessons for apprentices and/or workshops for the public.
- Write/record and submit articles, video, audio, and other media.
- Coordinate on-farm educational workshops and fundraising events.
- Help advertise and publicize YFTP and Young Farmer Market and other market sales (restaurant and farmer market)
- Write/record and edit articles, video, audio, and other media including those created by YFTP apprentices.

Duties and Responsibilities

CO-TEACHING (25%):

- Work with IFFS team to create strategic goals and projections
- Co-facilitate activities/lessons/events for apprentices, volunteers, visitors, and staff
- Empower youth and visitors with train-the-trainer methods and opportunities for meaningful learning
- Co-design visual elements on IFFS teaching farm and for curricula

CURRICULA PLANNING (25%):

- Co-develop and test educational programming for YFTP apprentices including daily lessons, field trips and guest speakers, weekly goals, and seasonal outlines
- Occasionally create educational programming for school groups or other visitors including farm tours, and workshops

COMMUNICATION (25%):

- Meet regularly with IFFS farm staff to plan curricula and co-manage responsibilities
- Develop media (articles, video, audio, etc) about YFTP
- Publicize/advertise YFTP activities and events.

EVALUATION (25%):

- Participate in routine feedback with apprentices and staff
- Submit weekly written comments and 'lessons learned' about curricula and weekly lessons
- Support grant reporting efforts (written and presentations)
- Coordinate with IFFS farm staff to co-design protocol, farmer training curricula & workshops around YFTP
- Communicate regularly with the director and IFFS staff about progress, difficulties, and needs
- Attend and participate in all departmental, staff and development meetings, reporting progress and collaborating across departments for more effective programming
- Represent and promote IFFS and IFFS farm programs at local events, workshops, meetings, conferences, etc

Essential Function:

Position requires manual dexterity, corrected vision, speech, and hearing to normal range or special accommodations made of sufficient nature for completion of assigned tasks. Will require lifting weight up to 25 pounds, and physical interactivity with people of all ages. Hours will include some evenings and weekend work, based on seasons, weather and program schedules. Valid driver's license required. Position will be based from the IFFS Raleigh farm in Wake County; however, applicant must have reliable transportation, as position will require frequent travel to any of IFFS' seven service counties.

Performance will be measured primarily by:

- Self-evaluations and co-evaluations with other members of IFFS team including staff, apprentices, visitors and volunteers
- Co-development of curricula including record-keeping and evaluation mechanisms for YFTP
- Effective co-coordination with IFFS staff for YFTP and other training programs, farm tours, on-farm workshops, and events

Compensation:

\$15K commensurate with experience, for duration of 3-year USDA Beginning Farmer & Rancher Development Program Grant funding

Please include cover letter and resume. If you have created farm-based curricula in the past please include samples of those as well (5 attachments max) via email (*please NO calls) to:

Mitra Sticklen

Coordinator, Young Farmer Training Program

Inter-Faith Food Shuttle

Mitra@foodshuttle.org