



Vermont Community Garden Network

Garden Education Intern

1 internship position for 2017

Length of internship: May 30 – August 31 (14 weeks)

Hours: 10-14 hours/week

Primary internship hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings

Compensation: \$250 stipend upon completion of internship *OR* academic credit for students enrolled in an accredited academic institution

Applications due: March 1, 2017

Position Summary:

This is an opportunity to gain experience in garden education by working closely with diverse groups of adults and children in community garden settings. The intern will work closely with the Garden Education Manager to provide dynamic hands-on educational programming at two sites – the Ethan Allen Residence (a residential care home for seniors) and at the Family Room Garden (a summer gardening program for young children and their parents). The ideal candidate joyfully participates in garden activities with people of all ages and backgrounds. Interns will develop skills and confidence to deliver hands-on gardening activities on their own.

The Vermont Community Garden Network is a nonprofit organization that supports and connects community and school garden groups around the state and provides hands-on garden education for all ages. We support and grow the state's vibrant network of community and school gardens by growing gardens, growing gardeners, and growing garden leaders.

Primary Duties:

- Assist the Garden Education Manager in delivering biweekly garden-related activities for young children age birth to 6 years old, and their parents
- Support program staff in managing a community garden and support both new and experienced gardeners in a family-friendly, multicultural environment
- Assist the Garden Education Manager in delivering weekly garden-related activities at a residential care home for seniors with varying physical and emotional abilities
- Collaborate in the development of curriculum that includes hands-on gardening, cooking, nutrition, herbalism, and food preservation activities
- Participate in garden planting and maintenance as needed
- Document activities through garden logs, photos, and program reports
- Participate as needed in other garden education activities during public events, conferences, and programs coordinated by the Vermont Community Garden Network

Skills & Qualifications:

- Student in Environmental Studies, Nutrition and Food Science, Horticulture, Education or related field
- Interest in community-based gardening, food systems, outdoor education
- Prior experience working with children in an educational setting is required
- Prior experience in gardening or farming is required
- Experience with whole foods cooking and/or herbalism is desirable
- Able and willing to work independently to deliver garden education programming
- Comfortable working with groups of adults and children with diverse backgrounds, skills, and abilities
- Creative, fun-loving, and dynamic personality with a passion for community engagement
- Willingness to work outside and do physical work
- Outstanding verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to be flexible due to shifting needs of the programs and gardens
- Strong work ethic and ability to interact with the public in a professional and courteous manner

To apply, please email a cover letter, resume, and two professional references to:

Carolina Lukac, *Garden Education Manager*

Vermont Community Garden Network

carolina@vcgn.org

(802) 861-4769

What do past Garden Education Interns say about their experience with VCGN?

"My experience in the garden this summer surpassed my initial expectations. I became more involved in the Burlington community and learned so much more about community gardening than I could have imagined."

"I now understand the importance of community gardening not only as a mean to help re-localize the food system but as a genuine source of community. The welcoming environment and joy that came from joining with others in a garden is a truly beautiful one."