Length of internship: June 1 – August 28

Hours: 8-12 hours/week
Primary hours for scheduled activities are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings between 9am-12pm. Additional hours for meetings and office-related work can be on a flexible schedule.

Position Summary:
This is an opportunity to gain experience in garden education by working with diverse groups of adults and children in community-based gardens in Burlington. The Garden Education Intern will work closely with the Garden Education Manager to provide dynamic hands-on educational programming at the Ethan Allen Residence (a residential memory care home for seniors) and at the Family Room Garden (a summer program for young children and their caregivers). Mentoring and opportunities to co-facilitate activities is provided during the first month, with the expectation that the Garden Education Intern will develop skills and confidence to deliver hands-on gardening activities on their own.

Primary Duties:
● Co-facilitate weekly garden-related activities for children ages birth to 6 year olds and their adult caregivers
● Support program staff in managing a community garden and support both new and experienced gardeners in a family-friendly, multicultural environment
● Co-facilitate 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 throughout the summer, in all weather conditions
● Document activities through garden logs, photographs, social media, 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:
● Interest in community-based gardening, food systems, experiential education, food justice
● Prior experience in organic gardening or farming is required
● Prior experience working with young children is required
● Experience with whole foods cooking and/or herbalism is desirable
● Comfortable working with seniors experiencing memory loss and limited mobility
● Cultural sensitivity when working with families of diverse backgrounds
● Quick learner, able and willing to work independently to deliver garden education programming
● Creative, fun-loving, and dynamic personality with a passion for community engagement
● Willingness to work outside and do physical work in all weather conditions
● Discipline for documenting weekly activities in a timely manner
● Savvy with Facebook and Instagram social media platforms
● Ability to be flexible due to shifting needs of the programs, participants, and gardens
● Personal transportation to get to garden sites in the New North End is essential (car or bike)

Compensation: $300 stipend upon completion of internship. Students from accredited academic institutions may be able to receive academic credit.

Additionally, we invite the Garden Education Intern to participate in our Community Teaching Garden Course to acquire gardening skills and knowledge that will be directly transferable to the hands-on work required of this internship. Please see more details about the Community Teaching Garden Course on our website http://vcgn.org/what-we-do/ctg/

Application deadline: February 14, 2020
Candidates will be interviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled. We encourage early applicants!

To apply, please email a cover letter, resume, and one professional reference to:
Carolina Lukac, Garden Education Manager
Vermont Community Garden Network
carolina@vcgn.org
(802) 861-4769

The Vermont Community Garden Network’s (VCGN) mission is to cultivate well-being by helping people of all ages grow food, build confidence, and connect with each other. We work with people in communities across Vermont to grow gardens where they live, work, learn and play, establishing and sustaining thriving gardens based on local solutions. We mobilize through community organizing, training, planning support, project funding, and hands-on garden education.

What do past Garden Education Interns say about their experience with VCGN?
“[I] now understand the importance of community gardening not only as a means 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.”

“Every day in gardens brought the opportunity to play so many different roles - teacher, gardener, student, camp counselor, chef, friend - and with that came so much learning and growth.”

“The connections I made within VCGN and outside are some that I hope I can maintain for the rest of my life and I cannot put into words how grateful I am for that. This organization changes lives with their gardens and I don’t hesitate to say that it changed mine this summer.”

Vermont Community Garden Network
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