Urban Growers Collective - Fall, Winter & Spring Internship Application

Thank you for your interest in a farming internship with Urban Growers Collective. Please see below for a description of the internship and an application for Fall 2018 – Spring 2019.

*Please note that we are looking for, and give priority to, internship candidates who want to become farmers. If this is not your interest, we ask that you look for another internship that will fit your needs.*

About Urban Growers Collective:

Urban Growers Collective (UGC) was founded by Laurell Sims and Erika Allen in the fall of 2017. Our approach is to demonstrate and support communities in developing community-based food systems where food is grown, prepared, and distributed within their home communities. In this way, vulnerable populations help themselves by learning how to provide for their own needs in a sustainable manner.

We operate seven urban farms on 11-acres of land predominantly located on Chicago’s south-side. These farms are production oriented with staff integrating education, training, and production to meet program goals. Each farm site ‘demonstrates’ the capacity for both large volumes of production and the ecological and social impacts of farming in society.

While farming is the foundation upon which we grow, helping people thrive is emphasis and the motivation for our work. UGC tackles food security through a variety of programming. Our portfolio of programs includes: the Fresh Moves Mobile Market; Farmers for Chicago, our job-readiness program which trains over 250 teens annually, 30 formerly incarcerated adults through an 18-month job-training program with Heartland Alliance, as well as our Incubator Farmer program which provides land and technical assistance for new Chicago farmers; our head-start preschool farm which serves over 150 preschoolers and their families in partnership with Ounce of Prevention; and finally, we provide education to a larger audience through a series of agriculture, small business development, and equality building workshops.

Our core values honor shared leadership and collective decision making; racial, economic, gender and LGBTQ equity; and employee well-being: we have witnessed how these values lead to thoughtful, holistic programming and yield environments that nourish and create prosperity.

Expectations of interns:

- To assist Urban Growers Collective staff in all aspects of community food systems, urban agriculture, and small farmer outreach and youth development via innovative sustainable approaches. This is a hands on, urban farming experience.
- This position is an intensive, hands-on experience. The goal is to provide a realistic experience as an urban farmer. We are accepting applications for Fall 2018 through Spring 2019, and are flexible around start/end dates and hours per week.
- Interns have a high level of responsibility and will be expected work as a member of the staff, and to represent UGC in a positive manner. This includes appropriate dress, hygiene and conduct.
• A positive attitude, ability to receive constructive criticism and strong work ethic is mandatory due to the nature of the work and the communities we work in partnership with throughout Chicago.
• Ability and emphasis on hands-on physical labor and practice is very important.
• Ability to work as a member of team, flexibility in work assignments as needed.
• Ability to communicate effectively with diverse audiences, staff, and management.
• Willingness to multi-task, solve problems and make sound decisions.
• Physical Demands: Must be met by an intern to successfully perform this position.
• Ability to handle, feel objects, tools and to reach with hands and arms. Ability to lift heavy objects 75lbs. + from different locations, use wheelbarrows, wagons, etc. *Applicants with physical limits are encouraged to propose enabling methods or less physical opportunities
• Requirements: Valid driver’s license; 1 week intensive training commitment.

What we provide:

• Interns will receive supervision, intensive hands-on training and skill sets acquisition with the opportunity to conduct and implement independent projects.
• Continued mentoring support is provided as needed post-internship.
• Solid experience in urban agriculture working with diverse community sites and partners.
• Flexibility in scheduling
• Opportunities to gain experience
• Participation in workshops and Farmers for Chicago trainings
• School credit if applicable

Essential Duties:

1. Maintain urban agriculture site including bed preparation, planting, watering, pest management, and weeding.
2. Winter production management with a focus on micro greens and brassica production.
4. Assist with animal husbandry (goats, chickens)
5. Support Compost and vermicomposting program
6. Harvesting and processing of produce.
7. Packing of produce to markets and accounts with orders.
8. Record keeping and data entry of produce harvested (sales, donations, and waste).
9. Assist with weekly garden tours and visitors.
10. Assist staff with youth programming held on site as needed.

Read more about all of our programs at: https://urbangrowerscollective.org/. You can also learn more about our program sites at: https://urbangrowerscollective.org/projects/.
Internship Application

Last Name:
First Name:
Pronoun(s):
Mailing Address
City and State::
Zip code:
Phone Number:
Email Address:
Social Media
Handle(s):

Please answer the essay questions below (limit one-page maximum per question):

1. Why do you hope to gain as an intern with Urban Growers Collective?

2. Why do you want to be a farmer or work in urban agriculture?

3. Do you bring any special skills you would like to utilize during your internship or have an area of interest?

4. Through an anti-racist framework, how have you dealt with your own personal privilege or internalized oppression?

Please email your completed application and resume to:
info@urbangrowerscollective.org, or mail to 1200 W. 35th Street, Box 118, Chicago, IL 60609.