URBAN HARVEST STL: FARMER EDUCATOR - APPRENTICESHIP

Urban Harvest STL builds community around inclusive and resilient local food systems across a network of urban farms in St Louis. We believe all members of our community should have equitable access to fresh, healthy food regardless of socioeconomic status, race or location. We grow healthy produce across a network of urban farms in the heart of St. Louis and donate the majority of the harvest to nonprofit partners serving communities with limited or non-existent access to healthy, nutritious food. Urban Harvest STL also educates and engages the surrounding community in these efforts.

Position

The Farmer Educator will be responsible for the farm operations and food distribution for Sally’s Rooftop Garden and Terrace and Fresh Starts Community Garden. They will also work in close collaboration with the Education and Engagement Manager to realize the goals of the apprenticeship program.

This position will serve as the liaison connecting the apprenticeship curriculum to the farm tasks identified by the Director of Urban Agriculture and other farm staff. The Farmer Educator will develop educational experiences that create hands-on learning opportunities, complement the content of the training handbook, and assist with projects that farm leads prioritize at their location throughout the growing season.

Accountability

The Farm Educator is directly accountable to the Director of Urban Agriculture with strong collaborative efforts expected with the Education and Engagement Manager.

Responsibilities

Farming (40% of weekly hours):

- Oversee and implement farming operations at Sally’s Rooftop Garden and Terrace and Fresh Starts Community Garden
- Organic fertility programs including cover cropping, composting and crop rotation
- Harvesting and optimal post-harvest handling in accordance with food safety plan
- Pest and disease management (IPM) using organic methods
- Plan, modify, and maintain irrigation systems
- Nurture edible plants in a variety of applications including (but not limited to) farm rows, raised beds, hydroponic towers, modular planters, food forest and perennial plants
- Complete farm upkeep and regular maintenance

Education (30% of weekly hours):
Work with the Education Manager and farm leads to identify strategies for hands-on learning at the intersection of the curriculum and required farm tasks, which can include the following:

- Lead or assist apprentices in daily tasks across our network of urban farms
- Assist apprentices in educational opportunities with partner farms in the St. Louis region
- Develop and deliver presentations on core farming skills from the curriculum

Community Engagement (20% of weekly hours):

- Deliver produce grown to distribution venues (Lifewise STL, Our Lady of Perpetual Help) on Tuesdays and Saturdays
- Assist Education and Engagement Manager is identifying opportunities for partnerships, field trip sites, and guest speakers for apprenticeship program
- Work with chef at Turn Restaurant to provide produce for restaurant operations and UHSTL events
- Uphold a positive and engaged work style, and an ethical, respectful, and inclusive organizational culture
- Work with farm and distribution partners to identify appropriate crops to plant based on community need

Planning & Record Keeping (10% of weekly hours):

- Coordinate and document weekly apprentice activities in partnership with Education and Engagement Manager and Director of Urban Agriculture
- Assist with onboarding and orientation of apprentice cohorts and attendance tracking
- Track produce harvested and donated

Qualifications & Skills

- A passion for urban agriculture, health, food justice and community development.
- Enthusiasm for educating community members.
- Strong verbal communication skills; a passionate communicator with excellent interpersonal and multidisciplinary project skills.
- Ability to work effectively in collaboration with diverse groups of people and stakeholders.
- An action-oriented, entrepreneurial, and adaptable personality that excels in a dynamic and innovative environment.
- Willingness to work in year-round St. Louis outdoor weather conditions
- In process or completed degree in agriculture, education, environmental studies, or related fields or equivalent hands-on experience preferred.
- Two full seasons of organic vegetable farming or gardening experience with a strong understanding of container gardening preferred. Rooftop gardening experience is a plus.
- Experience with education programs; facilitation of volunteers; and/or coordination of food donation programs preferred.
Compensation and Benefits
Position is part-time, seasonal and requires 10 hours/week in January and February, and 30 hours/week March through October. Schedule of work will be primarily Tuesday-Saturday mornings with occasional evenings required. Compensation for this position is $17/hr and includes paid wellness days, vacation and holidays. Also included is a monthly healthcare reimbursement stipend of $175. Priority start date in February 15th, 2023

To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to: careers@urbanharveststl.org

Equity and Anti-Discrimination Policy
Urban Harvest STL does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, military status, or marital status in any of its activities or operations. This policy applies to hiring and firing of staff, selection of volunteers, and provision of services. We are committed to creating a welcoming environment on our farms for all community participants, visitors, partners, employees, and board members. We acknowledge that intersecting structures in our food system marginalize, oppress, and exploit Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC). We also acknowledge that BIPOC growers have shaped agriculture as we know it today, while their crucial contributions have gone largely unrecognized. By centering racial equity, we commit to working toward a just food system in all aspects of our work. We expect that staff members will advocate for our core value of equity in all aspects of their stewardship of our organization’s mission and goals.