

Position/Title: Learning Gardens Urban Ag Interns

Start Date: July 27, 2020

Application Deadline: Open until position is filled

Contact: Send resume and cover letter to srose@cityparksfoundation.org

ABOUT CITY PARKS FOUNDATION

City Parks Foundation (CPF) is the only independent, nonprofit organization whose mission is to offer programs in public parks throughout the five boroughs of New York City. We are dedicated to invigorating and transforming parks into dynamic, vibrant centers of urban life through sports, arts, community development, and education programs for all New Yorkers. Our programs and community building initiatives -- located in more than 350 parks, recreation centers, and public schools across New York City -- reach 425,000 people each year. Our ethos is simple: we believe thriving parks mean thriving communities.

- We connect youngsters to nature in the urban environment with education programs that provide learning experiences through classroom and hands-on activities in parks, urban forests, coastal areas, gardens, and recreation centers.
- We present the largest free, outdoor performing arts festival in NYC through SummerStage, presenting artists of the highest quality across multiple disciplines and genres, and marionette puppet theater in all five boroughs with our Swedish Cottage Marionette Theatre and the roving PuppetMobile.
- Partnerships for Parks, a public-private program of City Parks Foundation and NYC Parks, supports and champions a growing network of leaders who care and advocate for the transformation of their neighborhood parks.
- Free golf, tennis, track & field, soccer, and fitness programs bring high-quality instruction and equipment into areas where few organized athletic opportunities exist. We offer leveled training, year-round scholarship coaching, and special pro events.

POSITION SUMMARY

Learning Gardens brings year-round, field and school-based garden science learning to NYC school children and community members. Our gardens are outdoor classrooms that provide vibrant green space in some of New York City's most densely populated neighborhoods. We operate four gardens in three boroughs. Using our four community gardens, CPF presents engaging interdisciplinary lessons to expand student learning around urban ecology, horticulture, soil science, and sustainable urban food systems. Students in 2nd – 8th grade and their teachers receive resource materials, curricula, and tools to enhance their understanding of ecosystem services and address the unique challenges of growing food in an urban environment. High School interns are trained in garden instruction and horticultural techniques throughout the spring and then work alongside Learning Gardens staff throughout the summer.

The Summer Urban Ag Intern will work alongside Learning Garden staff in day-to-day field operations at our Learning Gardens site located in South Jamaica, Queens. Primary responsibilities will be to help maintain vegetable garden areas and general maintenance. Guidance and some training will be on-site, but prior knowledge is required. The ideal candidate will be an excellent team member and an effective communicator.

This position is for college students or young professionals. Workdays are four days per week (Monday - Thursday) for six weeks. This position will be reporting to the Associate Director of Environmental Education/Learning Gardens.

REQUIREMENTS

- Assist with supervising high school interns performing general garden maintenance on site.
- General garden maintenance as it relates to the site including maintenance of: compost systems, perennial pollinator areas, perennial fruits, annual vegetables, flowers and herbs, pruning, and weeding.
- Able to lift up to 30 lbs and perform outdoor tasks in all weather conditions
- Help coordinate day-to-day garden maintenance functions for the designated Learning Garden areas
- Collaborate with Learning Gardens staff, interns, and community volunteers on garden maintenance and harvest distribution
- Help track attendance and evaluate high school intern program impact, outcomes and participants' progress.
- Assist with seeding and transplanting, greenhouse monitoring, harvesting and data collection of produce.
- Assist to maintain and repair garden tools and equipment.
- Workdays are Monday through Thursday (8:30 - 2:30pm) for six weeks in the summer

QUALIFICATIONS

- At least 1-2 years of gardening/farming experience
- Basic knowledge in horticulture skills including but not limited to: plant science, maintenance, composting, etc.
- Good communication skills
- Able to work independently and on a team
- Able to lift up to 30 lbs and perform outdoor tasks in all weather conditions
- Completed or currently studying for an Associate's or BA/BS degree or Certificate program in a related field, such as Urban Agriculture, Plant Science, Horticulture, Environmental Education, Botany, Soil Science, is a plus.

CONTACT

Interested parties should email cover letter and resume to: srose@cityparksfoundation.org

Put "Learning Gardens Urban Ag Intern" in subject header.

Thank you for your interest in City Parks Foundation, an equal opportunity employer. Only potential candidates will be contacted. No calls, please.