

## The Bennington Sustainable Food Project Student Garden Internship Application

The Student Garden is part of the Bennington Sustainable Food Project, a student group dedicated to addressing issues of agriculture and sustainability. The Student Garden will be a resource for students, faculty, staff and Bennington community members. It will serve as an educational tool used to develop knowledge of sustainable garden practices, as well as an experiential and self-guided classroom. The Student Garden will also be an outlet for community outreach, connecting summer garden interns with youth programs and local non-profits, strengthening communication, collaboration, and education between Bennington College and the greater Bennington community. Clear and comprehensive documentation of garden activities is fundamental to the success of the Student Garden. Summer garden interns will be required to keep a detailed record of garden processes, maintain a blog, and submit two reports to the Sustainability Committee.

### Job Description:

Two stipend internship positions are now available working in the Student Garden, located in the Bennington College Faculty and Staff Community Garden. Depending in the interns' schedules, the summer internship will start between June 2 and June 13, and end between August 22 to the start of the fall term.

### Spring Term Internship Preparation/Responsibilities:

Once the interns are hired, they will work in collaboration with the Bennington Sustainable Food Project to design and plan the garden. During this time, we will plan the garden (what we are going to plant, when, and how much) according to our predetermined end-uses for the food that will be grown. \*Please see the Post Harvest section below for a full description of the planned end uses for the garden produce.

The interns will work with the BSFP to contact community organizations, and to plan the outreach portion of the garden internship. Community organizations include: Blooming Chefs, DREAM and Six Bank Street Homeless Shelter. Additionally, we will plan visits to local farms and student gardens at other colleges. Starting in the Spring term, the interns will solicit student volunteers, and will compile a list of interested students who are staying in Bennington over the summer who can help in the garden.

Due to the planning that is necessary in starting and maintaining a garden, as well as making direct contact with community organizations, it is integral that the interns are part of this initial preparation. Being a part of this planning process will provide space for interns to have increased understanding and ownership of the project's structure and goals.

### Summer Internship Responsibilities:

#### **Garden**

Summer garden interns will be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the garden. They will work 20 hours a week for 10 weeks. Their tasks include preparation of soil, planting, fertilization, weather, watering, weeding, pest management, and harvesting, although interns should be ready to address other gardening issues as they may arise.

The garden should be a space for experimentation, and each summer should express the individual interests of the garden interns. However, basic garden guidelines will be upheld from year to year. The summer garden interns will be instrumental in helping to design and document the basic garden guidelines.

### **Community Outreach**

During the summer, Garden interns will be responsible for weekly community outreach activities. These may include: working with Carol Adinolfi of Blooming Chefs and the DREAM mentoring program, arranging educational activities and workdays for children who participate in these programs, and delivering and preparing dinners for 6 Bank Street Homeless Shelter.

Throughout the summer, garden interns will visit local farms, community gardens, and other school gardens to contextualize the work that they are doing on campus within similar efforts going on in the area. These visits will broaden the interns' understandings of the possible approaches to growing food, encouraging them to continue researching and modifying their own practices. Possible farms include Mighty Food Farm, Clear Brook Farm, Happenstance Farm, and the Community Garden in Downtown Bennington.

### **Documentation**

Clear and comprehensive documentation of garden activities is fundamental to the success of the Student Garden. Summer garden interns will be required to keep a detailed record of garden processes: preparation of soil, planting, fertilization, weather, watering, weeding, pest management, and harvesting as well as describing the challenges and ideas for improvements in coming seasons. In addition to daily records, the interns will be required to keep a Blog linked to the Bennington College website. Interns will be required to write one entry each week. As an internship program interested in community outreach and involvement, it is very important to provide the public with updates on the program throughout the summer.

Finally, the student garden interns will be responsible for two reports, one detailing gardening and outreach activities, and established practices for gardening and a second and final report with financial accounting and project assessments, due on October 30th and December 1st respectively.

### **Qualifications:**

- Experience and interest in gardening, and demonstrated commitment to self-guided research
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills
- Strong organizational skills
- Demonstrated motivation and self-discipline
- Commitment to community outreach and engagement, and interest in working with children

### **Required Application Materials:**

Letter of Interest

Resume

2 References - please list the contact information for two references

Please submit your application **by March 28, 2011** to Valerie Imbruce at [vimbruce@bennington.edu](mailto:vimbruce@bennington.edu) and also through Worklink.