

The Bennington Sustainable Food Project Student Garden Internship Application

Job Description: Two part-time, paid internship positions are now available working in the newly formed Student Garden, located in the Bennington College Faculty and Staff Community Garden starting June 7th and ending August 20th.

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.

Qualifications:

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

Required Application Materials:

Letter of Interest
Resume
2 References - please list the contact information for two references

Please submit your application to Valerie Imbruce at vimbruce@bennington.edu and also through Worklink - preferably by this Friday May 21, at the very latest Monday May 24th
We will hire the interns before the end of term.

Job Responsibilities:

Garden

Summer garden interns will be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the garden. They will work 20 hours a week for 11 weeks, June 7th through August 20th. 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. For this summer's pilot internship program, the summer garden interns will be instrumental in designing and documenting the basic garden guidelines.

Interns will cooperate and collaborate with other members of the community garden, fostering a sense of inclusion among all gardeners.

Community Outreach

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. Interns also have the unique opportunity to work along side local gardening professionals in the Hiland Hall Garden in North Bennington, VT in a part-time paid internship, providing structured gardening experience and additional income. Once Bennington College Student Garden Interns are selected, they will be referred to the Hiland Hall Garden Internship Application.

Throughout the summer, garden interns will visit local farms and community 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 near 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, duties performed for Hiland Hall Gardens, 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.

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Resume
List of 2 References

Interview?

Why are do you want this job, why do you think you're a good candidate?