



Urban Agriculture Internship

Victory Garden Initiative is a non-profit organization that builds communities who grow their own food as a way of life to create a community-based, ecologically sustainable, socially just and nutritious food system for all. We are a small, dynamic and rapidly growing organization seeking the right team member to join us in changing Milwaukee's landscape into a lush, food-producing city.

Position Description:

The Urban Farm Internship is an opportunity to expand your knowledge of urban food production, urban neighborhood development, community engagement, volunteer management, and urban food systems. This internship opportunity is part education and part hands-on work experience. Your work will be embedded in Milwaukee's Harambee Neighborhood where the post-industrial economic crash has hit hard, but where Milwaukeeans from all walks of life are contributing to advance economic prosperity, improve urban health and deepen community connections. This internship will provide experience in all areas of urban agriculture including planting & harvesting crops, pest and disease management techniques, composting, beekeeping, community garden rentals, and small scale urban entrepreneurial systems for urban farms.

Note that this is an unpaid internship. That being said, we do our best to focus on hands-on training and cross-training opportunities in different departments. We are sometimes able to offer small stipends or credit for specific professional development workshops, but this is not a guarantee. Students that qualify for school credit are encouraged to apply. Interns can also be hard-core volunteers that are not students!

Reports to: Farm Manager

Schedule and Duration: This is highly flexible, but in general these are the expectations.

Fall	Spring	Summer
September 1 - December 31	January 1 - May 31	June 1 -August 30
10-15 hours/week	10-15 hours/week	15-20 hours/week
Schedule is determined by the Intern and Farm Programs Manager at the time of hire.		

Location:

1. Farm activities (all months): Victory Garden Urban Farm - 220 E. Concordia Ave. Milwaukee, WI
2. Planning support (winter months): Victory Garden Initiative Office - 249 E. Concordia Ave, Milwaukee, WI



Learning Opportunities and Duties:

- Collaborate with the Farm Programs Manager to plan and implement food production throughout the growing season,
- Assist with compost production,
- Plan, plant, cultivate, and harvest crops and provide irrigation for plantings,
- Work with seedlings and plants inside hoop house,
- Assist with harvesting, cleaning, and packing produce for the CSA program and the Farmstand
- Enhance permaculture and pollinator plantings around farm and maintain general farm grounds,
- Participate in winter preparations of farm and farm planning projects over the winter,
- Assist in urban farm action and project planning,
- Manage small groups of volunteers during workday events,
- Give tours of the Victory Garden Urban Farm to small groups,
- Conduct community outreach to raise awareness and interest in urban agriculture,
- Work with neighborhood youth in the gardens on occasion if interested (requires a background check to do so)

Qualifications:

- Ability to lift 50 pounds,
- Capable of physical work (bending, lifting, shoveling, etc.) ,
- Enjoyment being outside and gardening,
- Ability to work long hours in all kinds of weather conditions (we do not work in hazardous conditions such as high heat index, thunderstorms and subzero temps but we do work through general rain, heat, and cold)
- Ability to balance multiple tasks and work independently
- Clear communication skills when working with partners, donors, and all people that come together to make VGI programs happen,
- Flexibility and adaptability ,
- Interest in food system issues, agriculture, permaculture, sustainability, climate change etc.
- Biology, agriculture, environmental, natural resources or sustainability student preferred.

To apply: Please send a cover letter and resume to helpusgrow@victorygardeninitiative.org with the subject line: Internship Program - Youth Education. If possible, please combine into one PDF document.

Note to applicants: if you are a student and interested in the position but cannot meet the time commitments, please still reach out to us! We are able to accommodate schedules for students to complete much shorter service hours through this internship program, we just ask that you are able to commit to some sort of regular, established schedule. Even if that is as little as 3 hours a week, you can still gain valuable experience in a chosen focus area (i.e. seeding crops in hoop house or going on compost runs w/ farmer).

Application Due Dates: We accept applications on a rolling basis. However, we usually focus our efforts around these due dates. You may submit at other times, but we cannot guarantee space available at those times or that we will be able to consider your application promptly.

May 1 (Summer Internship), **August 1** (Fall Internship), **December 1** (Spring Internship)