Assistant Grower - Seasonal - 25 hours per week

Position Description

The Assistant Grower is a seasonal position suited for a driven individual inspired by the opportunity to cultivate organically grown produce, community solidarity, and urban agriculture. The Assistant Grower works closely with the Farm Manager, Growing Entrepreneurs, and volunteers to complete a wide variety of tasks, including seedling production, field preparation and fertility management, planting, harvesting, washing and packing, irrigation, cultivating, record-keeping, tools and equipment inventory management, farm/property maintenance, and supporting farm stand operations. The Assistant Grower interacts with the public and is self-motivated, responsible, attentive to detail, growth-oriented, flexible, comfortable communicating with a wide variety of people, and able to work independently or in group settings and keep up a quick work pace.

The Assistant Grower may work independently or in a team dynamic at any of our several farm sites under the direction of the Farm Manager. Farm sites include the following locations within the city of New Haven: 170 Ward St., 613 Ferry St., 66 Liberty St, and 1515 State St.

The Assistant Grower is expected to work no more than 25 hours per week over a 5-month period from May through October 2023.

The ideal candidate for the Assistant Grower position will possess the basic skills for farming or intermediate level gardening. Training will be provided in order to:

- Successfully provide guidance to farm team members and volunteers in the absence of the Farm Manager.
- Help with farm stand operations and produce distribution to program participants.
- Safely operate utilities, equipment, and tools.
- Manage greenhouses.
- Compost.
- Help with farm stand operations.
Preferred Skills/Qualifications

- Bilingual (English/Spanish).
- A minimum of one season’s farm experience, plus two year’s work experience in any field (part-time/seasonally while in school is fine).
- Demonstrated ability to follow directions and work independently.
- Enthusiasm for urban agriculture and environmental issues.
- Desire to learn all aspects of small scale organic vegetable production in a city setting.
- Familiar with and culturally and linguistically reflect the New Haven community in which they will be working.
- Be in good physical condition and able to lift and carry 40lbs - 60lbs repeatedly and safely.
- Desire to work outside in all conditions (heat, rain, cold, poor air quality), sometimes engaging in repetitive tasks.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Inquisitive/proactive in asking questions to find solutions to obstacles.
- Flexibility to adapt to the frequently changing daily tasks as a part of a dynamic and exciting community based farm project.

Supervision

The Assistant Grower operates under the supervision of the Farm Manager.

Purpose

Gather New Haven’s farm sites primarily cultivate produce to support the dietary, nutritional, and economic interest of participants in the Farm-based Wellness Program. Gather New Haven’s Farm-based Wellness Program (FBWP) is an intensive lifestyle intervention program that focuses on residents of low-income communities with metabolic syndrome and diagnoses of chronic diet-related diseases such as cardiovascular disease, hypertension, and type 2 diabetes. Participants are introduced to the program through referrals from their healthcare provider or referrals from family members or peers. The program considers historical context and social justice issues that have isolated neighborhoods from opportunities and resources that have led to economic and social disadvantages linked to the disparities we see in the health of people of color and other disenfranchised groups. The Farm-based Wellness Program is held year-round in a group-based setting, with the core of its activities occurring over a 16 week period which parallels the growing season of our urban farms. Program participants are engaged in gardening activities, mindfulness, nutrition education, and whole food plant-based nutrition recipe demonstrations. Participants receive 30-60 pounds of fresh, organically grown produce from our farm properties every week during their enrollment in the summer program. By providing weekly farm shares, we help address food insecurity and ensure that families have consistent access to fresh, locally grown healthy foods. The surplus produce is sold through our weekly farm stand, donated to local churches and food banks, or given to volunteers.

Schedule

Scheduled dates and times are subject to change due to the dynamics of the farm operations. However,
the Assistant Grower is expected to work at least one day over the weekend and the remainder of the time during weekdays.

**Compensation**

$18.00 per hour.

Benefits include: Weekly farm shares, family and friends discount on produce sold at the farm stand, and Worker’s Compensation.

There is no paid time off for this seasonal position.

**Organizational Overview**

Gather New Haven’s tagline, Neighbors and Nature Thriving Together / Vecinos y Naturaleza Prosperando Juntos, conveys our commitment to connecting people to each other as well as to our shared natural resources and the importance of doing so to grow a vibrant community.

To learn more about Gather New Haven visit: gathernewhaven.org

**Interested?**

In addition to your resume and 2 professional references, a cover letter (limited to one page) should be included describing your interest and qualification for the position. Your cover letter should include your full name, address, and contact information (phone and email). Also, answer the following questions:

1) Why are you interested in this position? Why do you think you would enjoy/do well in the job?

2) Do you have any experience gardening/growing vegetables?

3) How do you think working with us will help you do what you want to do in the future?

4) What is your connection to urban gardening/food production? Or, why is this important for you and for New Haven?

Applications will be received and reviewed on a rolling basis. There is no deadline to apply; if the position is unavailable, we will inform you and keep your application on file and review it again once the position is vacated. Please submit your resume and cover letter through the job portal.

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, creed, color, religion, or gender, including sexual orientation and gender identity, national origin, disability, protected Veteran Status, or any other characteristic protected by applicable federal, state, or local law.

**How to Apply**

Email a cover letter and resume saved as a single PDF document to: info@gathernewhaven.org.