



## Grow: Johnson County 2019 Organic Farm Apprenticeship

### APPRENTICESHIP DESCRIPTION

Grow: Johnson County is now accepting applications for the 2019 Organic Farm Apprenticeship. Two apprentices will have the opportunity to learn and work on our 4-acre hunger-relief and education farm located at the Johnson County Historic Poor Farm in Iowa City, IA. Apprentices will be active in organic vegetable production, on-farm food safety strategies, produce handling and storage, land-based education, and community food security over the course of a three to six month period. Apprentices will gain experience in volunteer coordination, community partnerships and engagement, non-profit work environments, and on-farm recordkeeping.

Apprentices will report to the Packshed & Distribution Manager, Míchi López, and work alongside the Grow Team to implement the 2019 Production Plan, Food Safety Plan, and host educational and volunteer activities on the farm.

### Field and Hands-On Education

Here at Grow, we do most of our teaching and learning out in the fields. That being said, apprentices will need to be willing and excited to work with water and soil - a lil' bit of dirt don't hurt! Apprentices should be able to work in varied weather conditions for hours at a time.

### Workshops and Classes

There will be trainings conducted prior to the season regarding food safety, farm safety, and on-farm record keeping. Additional workshops regarding our methods will be held twice monthly throughout the apprenticeship.

### Physical Requirements

The duties of the summer internship include the ability to perform the following physical tasks related to weeding crops, planting seeds, watering, etc.

- Bending over
- Crouching/kneeling for long periods
- Pulling/pushing carts and wagons
- Standing for long periods of time

- Walking long distances over the farm  
...and other similar physical activities.

Tasks include, but are not limited to:

- Bed preparation
- Composting
- Seeding
- Transplanting
- Irrigation
- Weeding
- Harvesting
- Cleaning of produce
- Packaging of produce
- Cleaning of work area

In addition to tasks, it is essential that apprentices:

- Maintain open and constant communication with The Grow Team.
- Be able to work and talk at the same time.
- Establish positive relationships with community members, staff, other apprentices, and volunteers.
- Maintain all equipment, facilities, and tools clean and in working order.
- Perform all tasks in efficient and safe manner.
- Be mindful and careful when working near farm machinery.
- Perform additional duties as assigned.

## QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPRENTICESHIP

No previous growing experience is required, but some knowledge of food production is preferred!

We do ask that applicants:

- Be excited to learn.
- Be friendly and eager to work collaboratively with others on the farm.
- Be able to work in all weather conditions for hours at a time.
- Have an interest in issues surrounding food insecurity, food sovereignty, and sustainable agriculture and be eager to get involved in addressing those issues.
- Be able to lift 50 pounds.
- Be comfortable with bending over, crouching, kneeling, pulling, pushing, standing, walking, and other similar physical activities.

## COMPENSATION + TIMELINE

Apprentices will be paid \$10.25/hour and be expected to work 20 hours/week from May through September. Apprentices must be available Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7:30am-12:30pm each week. The remaining 5 hours are semi-flexible and may change from week to week. There is potential for an additional fall apprenticeship position that would run from September to October.

## ABOUT GROW: JOHNSON COUNTY

Grow: Johnson County is a hunger relief and educational farm program of Iowa Valley RC&D, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit. We at Grow believe that food--good food--is a human right! That's why we freely produce and distribute local, fresh, herbicide-free, and pesticide-free fruits and vegetables to our partners here in Johnson County, IA.

We are currently growing on four and a half acres of land located at the Johnson County Historic Poor Farm, producing organic fruits and vegetables that are donated to local hunger-relief agencies. We also provide hands-on gardening and farming opportunities for community members of all ages and backgrounds.

For more information about Grow: Johnson County, visit [www.growjohnsoncounty.org](http://www.growjohnsoncounty.org).

## COMMITMENT TO INCLUSION

Grow Johnson County is committed to creating a diverse, inclusive, and equitable food system and is a proud equal opportunity employer. We recruit, employ, train, compensate, and promote without regard to race, color, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, genetics, disability, age, or veteran status. There is no tolerance for discrimination or harassment of any kind in our organization.

All qualified candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

## TO APPLY

To apply for the 2019 Organic Farm Apprenticeship, visit our website and complete the required form by Friday, March 22nd at 5pm. Please be sure to send your resume to [grow@ivrcd.org](mailto:grow@ivrcd.org) after completing the application. **Applications without resumes will be considered incomplete and discarded.** Qualifying applicants will be notified about scheduling a working interview in early April. Selections will be made by mid-April. Apprentices would be expected to begin work in early- to mid-May.

For any questions or concerns email [michi@ivrcd.org](mailto:michi@ivrcd.org)