



Great Kids Farm Production Assistant AmeriCorps Term September 2016 – August 2017

Great Kids Farm engages Baltimore City Public Schools students at all grade levels to support classroom learning, participate in every aspect of food preparation, and prepare students for success in 21st century colleges and careers. Operated by Baltimore City Public Schools, the 33 acre farm property is a living laboratory that enhances lessons in environmental science, sustainable agriculture, nutrition, and healthy living. Great Kids Farm is a diverse GAP certified operation primarily growing fresh vegetables for school cafeterias, in addition we are raising laying hens, establishing an abundant orchard, expanding our compost program, and caring for a few friendly goats. We are pleased to announce that we are looking to fill a full-time year-long AmeriCorps Production Assistant Position.

General Responsibilities

Under supervision of the Farm Manager, the Production Assistant will play a critical role in maintaining the farms daily operations. Working alongside a small dedicated staff, the Production Assistant will gain experience in a variety of roles throughout their service year in addition to fulfilling the primary responsibilities of the position.

Primary Responsibilities include:

- Assist with all aspects of farm production: composting, soil preparation, planting, weeding, pest management, harvesting, and animal husbandry.
- Assist with campus maintenance and beautification: grass cutting, trimming/edging, landscaping, mulching, equipment upkeep, fencing, snow removal, leaf collection, trash pickup, and minor repairs.
- Lead volunteers and service groups on farm production and campus maintenance projects.
- Supervise high school age interns to complete tasks on farm as part of their work based learning education.
- Support educational programming as needed: setting up for school visits and leading school groups.
- Other duties as assigned.

Hours

The Production Assistant will work 40 hours a week and will follow the schedule of the Farm Manager. During the school year (September – June) the Production Assistant will work Tuesday – Saturday and during the Summer Months will work Monday – Friday.

Desired Skills & Abilities

- Ability and willingness to perform physical labor in all weather conditions for up to the duration of a workday.
- Must be able to lift 40 pounds.
- Prior work experience with basic lawn and garden tools including: lawn mower (riding and push), weed whacker/trimmer, hand tools (hoes, shovels, rakes)
- Knowledge or strong interest in sustainable agriculture, horticulture, food systems, and/or environmental studies.
- Ability to work with and lead adults and K-12 students.
- Self-motivated and able to perform tasks well independently.
- Prior farm experience (at least 3 months) and knowledge of farm machinery is preferred but not required.

Position Terms

This position is a 1700-hour Civic Works AmeriCorps position which includes a \$680 biweekly stipend, skills training, and a \$5,557.00 education award upon successful completion of service. The Production Assistant will gain experience in sustainable agriculture on an MDA GAP certified farm, leading volunteers as well as service groups, environmental K-12 education and gain knowledge of the workings of a City Schools District and Non-profit Organization. Great Kids Farm will support and encourage opportunities for professional development during the service term.

In order to be a Civic Works AmeriCorps member, you must be: at least 17 years old; a U.S. Citizen, U.S. National, or “lawful permanent resident alien”; and able to pass a drug test and criminal and sex offender background check.

As an AmeriCorps member you may NOT participate in the following activities:

- *Political Advocacy:* AmeriCorps members cannot engage in political advocacy. They cannot advocate for legislation or for a political candidate in any way. They cannot conduct voter registration drives or lobby government officials at any level.
- *Religious Instruction:* AmeriCorps members cannot engage in religious instruction. They cannot conduct religious studies, prayer groups, pastoral counseling, or any other activity promoting or providing information about religion. *This does not prohibit AmeriCorps members from participating in non-religious activities at religious meetings or services.*
- *Abortion Referrals:* AmeriCorps members cannot provide abortion services or referrals for receipt of such services.
- *Clerical Service:* AmeriCorps members may engage in clerical activities, such as photocopying, stuffing envelopes or answering phones for their own project. They cannot engage in these activities in assisting another person.
- *Fund Raising:* AmeriCorps members cannot seek in-kind donations and assist with fund raising events, mailings, or other activities, write grants (or portions of grants) or participate in capital fund raising activities or campaigns.

*The list above is a summary, for detailed prohibited activities go to the following link:
http://www.americorps.gov/pdf/12_0731_ameri-corps_provisions.pdf*

To apply

Send a 1) letter of interest and 2) a resume and 3) a completed [application](#) to Brooks Binau via email to jbbinau@bcps.k12.md.us with “Production Assistant” in the subject line.

Applications are due no later than August 15, 2016. Interviews will take place beginning in August. The start date for this position is expected to be on or around September 15, 2016.

If you have any questions about Great Kids Farm or the position, please contact the Great Kids Farm Manager, Brooks Binau, at jbbinau@bcps.k12.md.us or call 410-736-1681.