



Newton Community Farm’s 2018 High School Field Crew Intern Program

Thank you for your interest in Newton Community Farm’s (NCF) High School Field Crew Intern program. Please read the following overview of the farm and program and consider whether this is the right place for you. A good match between you and the farm is important to making the summer a positive experience.

As you consider whether this is the right place for you this summer, please be aware that it is okay to have little or no farming or gardening experience. You should, however, be prepared to work hard and have a positive attitude.

ABOUT THE FARM

NCF is a small, suburban educational farm located at 303 Nahanton Street, Newton MA 02459. We grow crops on 1.2 of our 2.25 acres. Our primary goals are to demonstrate what can be done on a very small piece of land and to encourage people to apply what they learn at the farm at their own homes. We operate an `80 shares’ summer Community Supported Agriculture program (CSA) and a `25+ shares’ late fall CSA program; sell at one farmers' market per week (July - October); operate a small, on-site farm stand five days per week (April - November); donate weekly during the growing season to local food pantries and occasionally to produce gleaner groups; and periodically sell to restaurants. We are **very productive** on a very small piece of land.

TIME COMMITMENT

The initial time commitment is **3 days per week for 2 consecutive weeks**. We start at 8 am and work until 12 pm, Tuesday through Thursday. Though not mandatory, you are also welcome to bring your lunch and eat with the farm team from 12 to 12:45 pm. Once you have completed this initial period, you can continue to work on the farm with the agreement of the Farm Manager. Please note this is at the sole discretion of the Farm Manager and is space dependent.

INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION

The Intern program has a number of goals. The most obvious of these is experience working on an intensive market garden (the traditional term for small vegetable farms). Our small size means that we try to utilize as much of our land for growing as possible; most of the work on the farm is done by hand. Our paths are narrow and the beds are planted intensively. Working on an intensive market garden requires focus, care and precision. You need to be able to work quickly and efficiently while paying attention to details and be able to follow verbal instructions.

Farming is also physically demanding. You need to be able to lift, bend, and kneel repeatedly. We work in all weather conditions—hot or cold, wet or dry. The only thing that brings us in out of the field is dangerous weather (e.g., lightening or tornados). As they say, there is no such thing as poor weather, only poor clothing, so come prepared with proper clothing and accessories. You will be expected to come properly prepared for the day’s weather (rain gear if it’s raining, hat and sunscreen if it’s sunny, etc).

Another goal of the program is to enhance Interns’ sense of personal responsibility. We treat the Intern program as a job. You are responsible for getting yourself to the farm on time. You are expected to work hard while you are here. If you are going to be late or cannot come in, you must inform the Farm Manager ahead of time. Since this is your job, ***you*** need to be the one communicating with the Farm Manager. ***Except in the case of emergencies, calls or emails from parents will not be returned.*** A member of the farm staff will review your performance with you at the end of your initial two week period. As with all jobs at the farm, your position can be terminated at any time at the discretion of the Farm Manager.

A third goal of the program is to develop Interns’ leadership skills. You will be working not only with the Farm staff and other High School Interns, but the general public as well. You may be given the opportunity to supervise small groups of volunteers and/or instruct them on how we do things at the farm. These volunteers may often be older than you! NCF is a community farm, so it is important that you be comfortable working around other people and in both small and larger groups.

Finally, the most important thing to consider is: “Why am I interested in interning at Newton Community Farm?” The work can be quite rewarding, but is also hard and the pace often fast. Please think carefully about whether and how this appeals to you. We want you to get the most out of the Intern experience as possible so it is important that you really want to be here.

APPLICATION PROCESS

If the program described above appeals to you, please fill out the application form and the consent form (includes waiver and medical information) and this program description (with your signature) and return them to Newton Community Farm, 303 Nahanton Street, Newton MA 02459 by June 16, 2018 (first come, first served).

Cheers!

Greg Maslowe, Farm Manager, Newton Community Farm

Intern Applicants: Please sign your name to indicate you have read this program description and understand the program’s requirements.	Signature -	Date -
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