



PLANTS AmeriCorps



Founded in 2009, CCUA works to enhance our community's health by connecting people to agriculture and the land through hands-on learning opportunities from seed to plate.

Description:

The Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture's PLANTS (Placing Learners, Agriculture, and Nature Together Sustainably) Program engages learners of all ages in hands-on experiences that emphasize the connection between food, health, and the environment. The PLANTS Program experiences take many forms and engage all ages in hands-on experiential learning to develop a deeper understanding of the social, cultural, environmental and economic impact of food in our communities. School, civic, and community groups can learn about the connection between food, health and the environment through our diverse garden space. We hope to empower and inspire learners to take skills acquired through the PLANTS Program and implement them in their homes, schools or workplaces.

As part of the PLANTS Programming team, the PLANTS AmeriCorps member will help lead educational activities for kids, maintain school gardens, maintain the outdoor classrooms at the Urban Farm and at the Agriculture Park, and will gather content which CCUA staff will use to create short educational videos. This position is a Tuesday-Saturday workweek.

Tasks you may be doing as a part of the PLANTS AmeriCorps team member:

- Maintain the outdoor classroom and garden at the Urban Farm
- Help install and maintain the new outdoor classroom and garden at the Agriculture Park
- Help install infrastructure at Columbia's Agriculture Park
 - Erecting fence
 - Installing irrigation lines
 - Building raised beds
 - Installing demonstration gardens
 - Building shelves and tables for the new greenhouse and barn
 - Planting and maintaining perennial plants
 - Weeding
- Plant, maintain, and support the 8 school gardens in the Farm to School program
- Take pictures and short videos of educational events and of proper gardening techniques
- Lead groups of volunteers in projects like field trips or gardening tasks
- Help maintain site records and event records
- Help host CCUA's annual fundraiser, the Harvest Hootenanny
- Other duties as assigned

Qualifications:

- Experience working with children, including facilitating large groups in activities
- Previous farming or gardening experience
- Strong work ethic
- Reliable, on time and dependable.
- Honest and forthcoming with information
- Flexible, with a good sense of humor
- Excellent time management skills and multitasking skills
- Personable and customer service skills
- Basic computer skills: email, Excel, Access
- Comfortable working outdoors in all types of weather
- Respectful of diverse cultures
- Valid Driver's License

Everybody eats! CCUA's programs are designed to reach people from diverse backgrounds. We respect all people regardless of race, religion, country of origin, sexual orientation, gender, ethnicity, ability, skill level, culture, class, background, or political belief to ensure opportunities are available to everyone in our community. Our programs build upon the diverse goals, skills, and abilities of the people we serve. We are committed to creating a culturally diverse team at CCUA and recognize we benefit from a team of people that represent our stakeholders and partners; therefore people of color and women are encouraged to apply. CCUA dedicates time and resources to bettering our understanding and abilities to relate and provide services to many different cultures and abilities and economic levels. We are strongly committed to helping each AmeriCorps gain valuable skills in a variety of areas such as this one among many.

Salary and Benefits:

- Term of Service: August 1, 2019 – July 31, 2020
- Living Allowance: \$13,992
- Education Award: \$6,095
- Up to \$175/ month reimbursement for healthcare
- Child Care
- Student loan forbearance on federal loans.
- \$300 farm stipend for produce
- Plants and seeds for your garden
- Valuable and transferable skills and excelling candidates may gain job opportunities with CCUA or other partners after end of service.

To apply, complete the application online or mail to:

CCUA c/o Justin Gregory
 PO Box 1742
 Columbia, MO 65205