



Urban Farming 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 Urban Farming Department is a small team of committed individuals who are responsible for the day to day management of all gardens under CCUA 's supervision. This includes gardens like the Urban Farm, the Agriculture Park, the Kilgore's Community Garden, Lucky's Crates to Plates Garden, the Community Orchards within the Columbia Housing Authority, and others. Tasks are myriad and include everything from garden planning in the winter to full on harvest mode in September, and all of the watering, weeding, and planting that happens in-between. As part of the Urban Farming team, the Urban Farm AmeriCorps member will focus on work tasks at the Urban Farm and on site development at the Agriculture Park. This position works a Tuesday-Saturday workweek.

The Urban Farming Department utilizes lots of volunteer labor to help keep all of our gardens happy, healthy and productive. Because of this, the ability to lead a group of volunteers through a task while explaining how this task fits into the larger garden management plan is an important component of each team member's job.

Urban Farming Department team members are largely outside in all weather, at all times of the year. With the exception of garden planning the winter, there is little computer work associated with this position.

Tasks you may be doing as a part of the Urban Farming Department AmeriCorps team member:

- Work at the Urban Farm
 - Manage on -site composting
 - Lawncare
 - Caring for the flock of laying hens
 - Taking care of seedlings in greenhouse
 - Harvesting
- Work at the 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

- Use a riding or a walk behind tractor to accomplish tasks at both sites
- Take produce donations to food pantries in Columbia
- Educate and manage volunteers on gardening tasks
- Ensure that site management aligns with the expectations of CCUA's clients and programming staff.
- Help maintain site records and produce records
- Help host CCUA's annual fundraiser, the Harvest Hootenanny
- Other duties as assigned

Qualifications:

- Previous farming or gardening experience
- Strong work ethic
- Ability to lift 50lbs
- Desire and ability to work in all weather conditions, especially rain, excessive cold, and excessive heat
- 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
- Comfortable in diverse environments and able to speak with all kinds of people.
- Comfortability using large machinery like tractors; training will be provided
- 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