AGRICULTURE INTERNSHIP

BACKGROUND: Inter-Faith Food Shuttle envisions a hunger-free community. We FEED our neighbors, TEACH self-sufficiency, GROW healthy foods, by cultivating innovative approaches to end hunger. We do this by engaging communities facing hunger to understand their unique needs and barriers. We have served the seven counties of central NC for over 35 years and are a member of the Feeding America network of 200 food banks across the nation.

Through GROW, we aim to enhance the efficiency of our farming operations, broaden access to agricultural knowledge, and create long-term solutions that minimize waste and strengthen local food systems. By prioritizing innovative practices, collaboration, and education, we are dedicated to fostering a sustainable, equitable, and food-secure future for our communities.

Our GROW programs redefine innovation by seamlessly blending sustainable agriculture practices with community education and engagement. We enhance farming efficiency and reduce waste while expanding access to agricultural knowledge. By empowering neighbors to cultivate their own food, we foster resilience and strengthen local food systems.

SCOPE OF WORK: The Food Shuttle Farm is a sixteen-acre urban production farm in the heart of Raleigh. We are dedicated to growing fresh produce for the Food Shuttle's hunger relief programs. Ninety percent, or greater, of the produce grown is distributed through our programs. The remaining percentage is sold at our Farm Stand, with all proceeds supporting the organization's programing.

The Food Shuttle also manages three Learning Gardens. The gardens have a wide range of elements including individual raised beds for community members, pollinator gardens, composting facilities and production-style row crops. We bring neighbors together, promote local food production, and provide opportunities for families to reconnect with nature in areas facing food insecurity.

The internship will include responsibilities across the Farm and Gardens, according to the interns' skills and interests, community need, and staff capacity.

RESPONSIBILITIES MAY INCLUDE:

- Supporting staff in aspects of sustainable gardening and crop production such as seeding, transplanting, mulching, weeding, harvesting, composting, and processing.
- Maintaining pollinator gardens & landscaped areas.
- Leading volunteer groups in tasks such as harvesting, mulching, compost flipping, and other maintenance activities.
- Supporting agriculture education by interacting with and supporting volunteers.
- Interacting with neighbors and customers at the Farm Stand to promote the organization's mission and increase awareness of the farm's role within the Food Shuttle.
- Maintaining the Farm Stand by restocking produce and monitoring quality of produce.
- Assisting with community and neighborhood outreach for community gardening.
- Assisting with compost operations.

REQUIREMENTS:

- 18 years of age or older
- Comfortable working outdoors in all types of weather conditions with ability to perform physical tasks, including lifting/moving materials up to 50 lb. in weight.
- Ability to engage with large groups of people.

- Spatial awareness (Understanding of your body's position, size and movement related to physical objects and the space around you.)
- Excellent attention to detail.
- Must have reliable transportation.
- Solid organizational skills with the ability to manage multiple tasks, set priorities, and work both independently and collaboratively.
- Strong outdoor skills and/or education background preferred: horticulture, sustainable agriculture, ag education, environmental sciences, or community development.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Develop or enhance skills in all areas of regenerative vegetable crop production (transplanting, pest & disease management, soil health, harvesting, composting, etc.)
- Develop skills and knowledge regarding volunteer engagement and community gardening.
- Practice leadership and teaching skills through leading volunteer groups.
- Expand knowledge of the food system, the root causes of hunger and how Food Shuttle programs and other efforts within the community aim to end hunger.

TIME COMMITMENT:

- 10-15 hours/week in-person; for 3 months
- Monday through Friday - primarily mornings; some Saturdays and/or evenings as needed.

WORK ENVIRONMENT:

- The role primarily involves outdoor activities at our farm in Raleigh and/or our three gardens in Raleigh and Durham. Specific locations will be discussed during the interview process and may include work at all locations.
- The dress code is farm-appropriate attire - clothes and shoes that can get dirty. Closed-toes shoes are required. Durable, weather-appropriate clothing such as waterproof boots, hats, sunglasses, gloves, and rain gear or jackets (depending on weather conditions) is necessary for protection and suitability on uneven ground.

COMPENSATION: This is an unpaid/volunteer internship.

TO APPLY: Submit application, cover letter, and resume to Volunteer Services Director, Susan Meador, at Susan@foodshuttle.org. Use the subject line: Agriculture Internship.