



Vermont Garden Network Garden Education Internship 2023

Length of internship: May 30 – August 18

Hours: 10-14 hours/week

Scheduled activities take place on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, primarily during the morning and early afternoon hours. There are occasional commitments on other days of the week for interns to support garden maintenance at various sites.

Position Summary:

This is an opportunity to gain experience in garden education by working with diverse groups of adults in community-based gardens in Burlington. The Garden Education Intern will work closely with the Garden Education Manager to provide weekly hands-on educational programming at the Ethan Allen Residence, a residential memory care home for seniors. Mentoring and opportunities to co-facilitate activities is provided during the first weeks, with the expectation that the Garden Education Intern will develop skills and confidence to deliver hands-on gardening activities on their own. In past years, much loved activities have included planting seeds, brewing herbal sun tea, arranging flower bouquets, creating garden mosaic stepping stones, and making pesto for weekly garden-inspired taste tests. This internship also involves weekly garden work to help maintain the Residence's gardens that provide seasonal produce for the kitchen staff. The Garden Education Intern will also support one-off workshops at other senior communities and will also participate in garden maintenance throughout the summer at other Vermont Garden Network (VGN) program sites.

Primary Duties:

- Collaborate in the development of curriculum that includes hands-on gardening, cooking, nutrition, herbalism, and food preservation activities
- Facilitate twice weekly garden-related activities at a residential care home for seniors with varying physical and emotional abilities
- Prep for weekly activities by developing lesson plans, budgeting and sourcing materials
- Participate in garden planting and maintenance tasks as needed throughout the summer, in all weather conditions and at multiple garden sites
- Document activities through garden logs, photographs and program reports
- Attend weekly Garden Ed team meetings and monthly VGN all staff gatherings
- Participate as needed in other garden education activities during public events and programs coordinated by VGN

Skills & Qualifications:

- Interest in community-based gardening, food systems, experiential education, food justice
- Prior experience in organic vegetable gardening/farming is required
- Prior experience working with, caretaking, and/or supporting seniors is desirable
- Interest and/or experience with whole foods cooking and/or herbalism is desirable

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- Comfortable working with seniors experiencing memory loss and limited mobility
- Quick learner, able and willing to work independently to deliver garden education programming
- Discipline for documenting weekly activities in a timely manner
- Creative, fun-loving, and dynamic personality with a passion for community engagement
- Willingness to work outside and do physical work in all weather conditions
- Ability to be flexible due to shifting needs of the programs, participants, and gardens
- Personal transportation to get to garden sites in the New North End is essential (car or bike)

Compensation: We can offer a stipend *or* academic credit. A \$500 stipend is offered upon completion of the internship. Or, students from accredited academic institutions may be able to receive academic credit.

Application deadline: April 14, 2023

To apply, please email a cover letter, resume, and one professional reference to:

Carolina Lukac, *Garden Education Manager*, carolina@vtgardens.org and send a copy to garden@vtgardens.org

The Vermont Garden Network's (VGN) mission is to cultivate well-being by helping people of all ages grow food, build confidence, and connect with each other. We work with people in communities across Vermont to grow gardens where they live, work, learn and play, establishing and sustaining thriving gardens based on local solutions. We mobilize through community organizing, training, planning support, project funding, and hands-on garden education.

What do past Garden Education Interns say about their experience with VGN?

"I now understand the importance of community gardening not only as a means to help re-localize the food system but as a genuine source of community. The welcoming environment and joy that came from joining with others in a garden is a truly beautiful one."

"Every day in gardens brought the opportunity to play so many different roles - teacher, gardener, student, camp counselor, chef, friend - and with that came so much learning and growth."

"The connections I made within VGN and outside are some that I hope I can maintain for the rest of my life and I cannot put into words how grateful I am for that. This organization changes lives with their gardens and I don't hesitate to say that it changed mine this summer."