



Vermont Garden Network

Thriving Gardens Course Intern 2023

Length of internship: May 3– October 13

Hours: 6-8 hours/week

Applicants must be available on class days: Wednesday evenings from 4-8pm and the second Saturday of each month from 8:30am-12:30pm. Hours used for meetings with the greater VGN team and social media presence are more flexible.

Position Summary:

This is a full-season opportunity to gain practical experience in organic gardening and learn teaching techniques in the context of an educational garden. The intern will work closely with the Lead Instructor to run the 6-month long organic gardening course for adults. This is a dynamic position to take on the responsibility of being both a teaching assistant to support the instructor and students, and a garden assistant to maintain our educational garden site. A full-season commitment is required, with variable weekly hours reflecting garden needs and class activities.

Primary Duties:

- Assist the Lead Instructor to prepare materials and tidy up after weekly garden classes
- Participate in various hands-on gardening activities including seeding, transplanting, watering, harvesting, mulching, weeding, and pest management
- Participate in garden site maintenance tasks such as shed cleanup, tool inventories, and signage
- Co-facilitate garden work days for students and occasional volunteers
- Document the course through photographs and videos
- Share/like VGN's social media posts

Skills & Qualifications:

- Interest in organic farming/gardening, community-based gardening, food systems, experiential education
- Prior hands-on experience in organic vegetable, flower, and/or herb gardening is preferred
- Familiarity and active engagement with social media (Facebook, Instagram)
- Willingness to work outside and do physical work in all weather conditions
- Able and willing to work independently, as well as in partnership with program staff
- Ability to be flexible due to shifting needs of the program, students, and garden
- Willingness to take initiative and motivation to seek new learning opportunities

- Strong work ethic and ability to interact with the public in a professional and courteous manner

Compensation: We can offer a stipend *or* academic credit. A \$590 stipend is offered upon completion of the internship. Or, students from accredited academic institutions may be able to receive academic credit. The intern also enjoys garden perks such as a weekly harvest of fresh produce, make & take items created during Saturday classes (i.e. herbal products, plant dyed fabric), and access to abundant seeds and seedlings, if interested.

Applications due: March 31, 2023

Candidates will be interviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled. We encourage early applicants. BIPOC, queer & trans folks are strongly encouraged to apply!

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

Angela deBettencourt, the *Partnerships & Engagement Manager*, via [angela\(at\)vtgradens.org](mailto:angela(at)vtgradens.org).

To learn more about the Thriving Gardens Course that this internship position would be supporting, please visit our [website](#).

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 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 comes 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."