

Organic Farm Intern, 2020 Season  
Seasonal position between early February and late October  
Temporary, Full Time, Non-Exempt

Responsible To:  
Farm Manager and Assistant Farm Manager

**Organization Description:**

Crown Point Ecology Center (CPEC) is a green space that matters – a biologically diverse living laboratory that serves to demonstrate practical applications of ecology. The 115-acre property in northeast Ohio (10 miles northwest of Akron, and 25 miles south of Cleveland) is a regional model for sustainable and organic agriculture and environmental education. At CPEC we believe that ecological land stewardship encourages structural and social change through local food production and community engagement.

**Position Summary:**

Crown Point is seeking summer interns for sustainable vegetable production and marketing on our 8-acre organic farm. Our summer internship program is designed for those who are interested in sustainable agriculture, community engagement, public horticulture and/or environmental education. Interns will learn practical skills in greenhouse production of seedlings for our plant sale and field experience growing produce. We grow over 250 varieties of vegetables and fruits, and market produce through our CSA program.

Responsibilities increase with length of stay, to include management of greenhouses, market stand and CSA distributions.

The farm crew will consist of the farm manager, assistant farm manager, and interns. The farm team and staff will provide training, mentorship and guidance in growing, maintaining and harvesting produce on Crown Point's five-acre vegetable farm, which serves a 110 member CSA, the Akron-Canton Regional Food Bank, farmers' markets and restaurants. Interns will gain the basic skills necessary to manage their own farms and adopt permaculture principles in farm management.

A strong work ethic, a positive attitude and good sense of humor are essential for this position. Interns must be able to withstand challenging weather conditions; do repetitive, tedious tasks; and be able to "go with the flow," as plans often change quickly in farming. Good teamwork skills are also essential, including the ability to communicate effectively and to stay calm, professional, and focused in a fast paced, sometimes stressful environment.

Duties include seeding, transplanting, weeding, watering, harvesting, washing, packing and marketing.

People with a demonstrated interest in pursuing a farming career are especially encouraged to apply.

Candidates must be able to commit to 3 or 6 consecutive months between early March and late October.

**Essential Duties and Learning Objectives:**

Other responsibilities may be assigned as necessary.

- Field work

Seed starting

Greenhouse management and season extension

Bed preparation

Direct seeding and transplanting

Field preparation which may include tractor use

Cultivating and weeding using organic methods

Pest and weed management

Irrigation systems

Compost management

Operating and maintaining relevant machinery

- Harvests and Sales

Harvesting, washing and packing crops for distribution to all accounts

Keeping records of produce distributed through each avenue

Assisting with Crown Point's annual spring plant sale production and sales

- Education, Management and Outreach

○ Participates in intern educational activities, working visits to other farms, completing self directed projects, field walks, and oral or written presentations

○ Trains, supervises and directs CSA shareholders and volunteers on farm tasks.

○ Orients and educates CSA shareholders on an informal basis.

**Required Minimum Qualifications:**

Education

-High School diploma or equivalent required.

Experience

-One growing season of experience with organic vegetable farming preferred. Some experience (paid, volunteer, or hobby) doing outdoor, physical work (e.g. gardening, landscaping, carpentry etc.) is required

-Experience with farm equipment and machinery helpful

-CSA or farmers' market experience helpful

-Experience cooking/eating/preserving diverse fresh vegetables helpful

**Skills**

-Listens carefully and follows directions. Communicates clearly and effectively, and asks questions when clarity is needed

- Multi-tasks and works efficiently. Delegates tasks and supervises others in a professional, courteous manner in what is usually a fast-paced and sometimes stressful environment
- Helps create a community-focused environment that supports the Crown Point mission and its guiding principles and promotes a positive, healthy work environment for all farm and CPEC staff
- Maintains a valid driver's license

**Working Conditions/Physical Requirements:**

- Flexible hours based on the weather, season and required activities. Approximate hours during the busy time of the season will be 9 to 10 hour days, Monday through Friday, and either Saturdays or Sundays for half days in the morning
- Work requires physical exertion and activities such as stooping, bending, lifting and pushing/pulling heavy equipment. All apprentices must be able to lift and carry 50 pounds.
- Farm work goes on, even when it is cold, wet, windy, hot, etc. Apprentices must dress appropriately and be ready to work under challenging weather conditions
- Farming is not without risk. Slip and fall accidents, back injury, equipment-based injuries, etc. can happen. Interns must have their own health insurance.

**Benefits:**

- Weekly stipend of \$360
- Produce from the farm
- Occasional attendance to farm-based workshops and farm visits
- Workers' compensation
- Paid vacation days (depending on length of internship), plus two paid floating holidays
- Rustic housing may be available on the farm

**To Apply:**

- Please email or snail mail the following materials to:  
Danielle Soroczak, Farm Manager, at [danielle@crownpointecology.org](mailto:danielle@crownpointecology.org) or  
Carolyn Kean, Exec. Director at [carolyn@crownpointecology.org](mailto:carolyn@crownpointecology.org)

Crown Point Ecology Center  
P.O. Box 484  
Bath, OH 44210

- Detailed résumé that highlights your qualifications for the internship position

-Cover letter that explains why you are interested in the position, and why at Crown Point particularly. Please also include the earliest date at which you would be able to start, and the latest date you could work in the fall.

-Telephone number(s) and email addresses of three references, of which at least one MUST be a former or current employer/supervisor. Please include a short description of how you know this person (Supervisor from Acme Landscapers, etc.)

Upon review of the application materials, the farm manager will contact the top candidates to schedule a 2-3 hour working visit and interview, in which candidates can see the farm, work with the farm staff, and both candidates and farm staff can determine whether it would be a good fit. Depending on scheduling, the working visit and interview may have to take place on different days. If you are applying from a distance and are unable to do a working visit, please let Danielle know when you send your application materials.

Crown Point will accept applications and schedule working visits/interviews on a rolling basis until March 20th, or until the open positions are filled.

QUESTIONS?

Call us at (330) 668-8992

Thank you for your interest in Crown Point!