



## **Garden Intern Position Description**

### **ABOUT SEEDS AND ITS MISSION**

Located in a historically marginalized neighborhood of Northeast Central Durham, SEEDS aspires to develop the capacity of young people grades to respect life, each other and the earth through growing, cooking and sharing food. With access to a two-acre garden and a kitchen, SEEDS wants its young people, ages 5-17, to leave the garden with an understanding of how food sustains us in life and good health, respect for land and environment, and with leadership skills through serving the community by sharing the food they grow in the garden.

The SEEDS building, constructed in 2014, holds a kitchen and a multipurpose room with communal tables where the young people share meals they make, using food they grow in the garden. Outdoors, there are two acres of land with a classroom pavilion, outdoor cooking spaces, a greenhouse, a chicken coop, bees, a pond, environmental education exhibits and multiple areas for growing edible and other plants.

### **ABOUT THE GARDEN INTERN POSITION**

The Garden Intern is an educational role in the garden. They will work with the Garden Manager to identify their own learning goals to develop their knowledge of gardening, sustainability, ecology, or any other interests pertinent to the garden. The exchange between work and education is the essence of this position, so it is designed for those who wish to gain, rather than practice, their garden knowledge. The Garden Intern reports to the Garden Manager, and performs a variety of tasks around the garden: (1) general garden work such as weeding, watering, planting, harvesting, etc., (2) helping to lead groups of volunteers in tasks in which the Garden Intern has been trained, (3) developing their own projects to complete in the garden on their own or with additional volunteer help.

As part of SEEDS' mission to provide quality education in gardening and cooking, the Garden Intern will work closely with the Garden Manager to ensure the steady workflow of the garden and achievement of the garden's goals. Each Garden Intern will have an informal conversation with the Garden Manager about their specific interests in gardening, any relevant skillsets they believe they already possess, and their goals for their time as Garden Intern. The Garden Manager will, in turn, work with the Garden Intern to develop relevant instructional material and its applications in the garden, to ensure the development of the Garden Intern's knowledge. At the Garden Manager's discretion, Garden Interns may draft a Garden Project relevant to their specific interests, to complete during their internship as a capstone project demonstrating the achievement of their goals. This is entirely optional.

Duties include but are not limited to:

#### **Garden Maintenance**

- Completion of basic garden tasks, such as weeding, composting, planting, harvesting, pruning, watering, landscaping, etc.
- Surveying the garden for work that needs doing
- Tidying up trash or tools that have been left out
- Helping with livestock chores

#### **Garden Development**

- Helping the garden stick to its planting calendar, setting up future successions of plants
- Researching potential projects related to their own interests

**Required Knowledge, Skills & Abilities:**

Since the Garden Intern position is really an educational one, no prior experience with gardening, farming, sustainability, greenhouses, or livestock is necessary. We ask that you bring an abiding interest in our work, and enough energy to make it through a three (3) hour shift on hot days!

**Working Conditions**

This position is a physically active position. The Garden Intern must be able to stand and walk for long periods of time, to bend at the knees and hips and to lift at least 30 pounds overhead. They must also be able to physically exert themselves for at least three (3) hours a week, using heavy garden implements such as hoes and shovels.

The hours for this position will be determined jointly by the Garden Intern and Garden Manager. You are expected to commit to a volunteer shift you can make each week, either in the morning (9am-12pm) or afternoon (1pm-4pm), Tuesday through Saturday.

**Work Exchange**

This is an unpaid internship, so there is no monetary compensation. The Garden Manager, however, will coordinate with the Garden Intern to develop educational goals for the Intern, and the Garden Manager will make resources and opportunities available for the Intern to achieve said educational goals.

Please submit a cover letter and resume to [thyde@seedsnc.org](mailto:thyde@seedsnc.org). The cover letter should detail a little about your background and your interest in the garden. No phone calls please. The positions will remain open until filled on a rolling basis.

We value a diverse workforce and an inclusive culture and encourage applications from all interested persons, including people of color, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQ individuals.