

Appalachia – Science in the Public Interest Food Systems Internship 2014

Organization Information

Appalachia – Science in the Public Interest (ASPI) has been working for healthy land and sustainable communities in Kentucky and Central Appalachia for 35 years. ASPI is a non-profit resource center advocating for sustainable development, responsible resource management, and informed personal. We use science and technology to benefit current and future generation as well as the environment by promoting innovative ideas and appropriate technologies. We accomplish this through education, research, consulting and demonstration projects.

Our focus areas are: **Sustainable Energy, Education and Demonstration, Food Systems, People and Culture, and Ecosystems**. We operate out of our **Small Town Demonstration Center** at our main offices in Mount Vernon, KY. Our other educational facilities include the **Mary E Fritsch Nature Center, Michael Francis Zalla Trails**, and close to 200 acres of old growth forest at our **Rockcastle River Demonstration Center** in Livingston, KY. Both of our demonstration centers have maintained produce gardens for over three decades; we were one of the first gardens in Kentucky to be certified organic. Since our inception in 1977 in ASPI has been dedicated to education and awareness of our region's environmental issues and we remain just as dedicated to that ongoing cause 35 years later.

Program Description

In 2013, we helped 47 families grow close to 20,000 pounds of food, conducted 10 workshops on food growing, harvesting, and preservation and partnered with 3 local schools and 10 local and regional organizations to develop programmatic resources and capacity.

We have three goals for our Grow Appalachia program in 2014:

- 1. Increase the number of families able to grow their own food in Rockcastle County.**
- 2. Create a sustainable and economically viable means for participants to improve their quality of life through marketing and selling garden and garden related products.**
- 3. Create Jobs that ensure the availability and sustainability of healthy food systems in Rockcastle County**

In 2014, we will assist 30 local families with home and community garden plots, expand our community garden capacity to accommodate new participants, begin planning for raised beds and additional community garden on-site in assisted living and other such multiple unit facilities in the County, conduct 12 education workshops and 3 farmer-to-farmer peer learning sessions, and expand the second year of our successful pilot market training program for 8 local youth. We hope to have three interns working with the Executive Director and the Grow Appalachia Coordinators to help us expand our pilot programs and build a foundation for the next several years.

Home Gardeners Education Intern:

- Assist with the implementation of a graduation structure for Grow Appalachia program participants. This includes conducting site visits with the Grow Appalachia coordinator and collecting and compiling data from each participant's garden workbook.
- Help plan and conduct three farmer-to-farmer educational exchanges in cooperation with other Grow Appalachia organizations.

- Manage the intergenerational learning program, whereby the youth workers learn the basics of gardening from existing participants as part of the volunteer hours and graduation component. This will be done by coordinating with the High School Internship Program Educator.

Farmer's Market Program Educator:

- Help manage the farmer's market training program. This includes facilitating market days: preparing the booth and products, attending market training programs, and
- Help create and implement a model for gardening- related job development programs for high school students, such as the producing and marketing of rain barrels, raised beds, garden guides and composters.
- Identify specific production activities with good economic potential in the local market (such as honey, composters or mushroom production).

Community Garden Education Intern:

- Help increase the number of community gardens in the county. This includes added capacity at the Mt Vernon community garden, and securing sites to build community gardens in Livingston and Brodhead. Additionally, we want to pursue gardens (raised beds) on-site in assisted living and other such multiple unit facilities in the County.
- Help manage the community garden, including outreach, garden maintenance and educational workshops.
- Help create and implement a model for gardening- related job development programs for high school students, such as the producing and marketing of rain barrels, raised beds, garden guides and composters.

Requirements

- Strong writing skills and interpersonal skills
- Comfort working with Excel, Word and PowerPoint
- Confidence in working under pressure with short timelines
- Comfort working with a wide variety of constituents
- Broad understanding and interest in many facets of sustainability
- Ability to formulate new ideas based on current programs
- Prior experience strongly suggested, but not required

Housing Is Available.

How to Apply:

Deadline: April 25th 2014

Our Food Systems Intern positions are filled by April for the summer program. You are welcome to visit, learn more about the center, and submit materials year-round. Interested candidates should submit a cover letter describing career goals and interest in this program along with a resume, including applicable experiences and coursework to:

Suzi Van Etten

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