



2015 SUMMER YOUTH INTERN PROGRAM



Training and hands-on experience for enthusiastic, motivated youth in organic community-based agriculture and commerce.

Appalachia- Science in the Public Interest is hosting a Summer Youth Intern Program which will have a structured curriculum that focuses on different gardening skills each week. Interns will take away the firm basics of running a small farm. Topics will include plant biology, soil biodiversity, propagation, business management, and marketing.

Participants:

4 teens total ages 16 through 18, currently attending or graduated from local high schools.

Selection Process:

- By application and interview with the ASPI Executive Director and Grow Appalachia Coordinator
- Applications are due at Appalachia- Science in the Public Interest by May 13, 2015
- Interviews will be held at the ASPI Office in Mt. Vernon after 3pm during the week of May 18, 2015
- Selections will be announced on May 22, 2015
- Each intern will receive a \$500 stipend provided by a grant from Grow Appalachia and a Certificate of Completion at the end of their commitment
- Participants and their parents will sign a contract that explains the commitment
- Each session will end with a final project from each intern and a party

Schedule:

- The internship session will be 7 weeks, June 9 through July 30
- The schedule will be Tuesday through Thursday, 3 days per week, 5 hours per day, from 9 am to 2 pm
- The hours and days will be divided between field work and education programs
- Over the course of the summer, interns will pursue a personal project of their choice related to gardening or marketing

Requirements:

- Gardening experience is not required
- A positive attitude, the ability to receive constructive criticism, and a strong work ethic are mandatory

Curriculum:

Week 1, June 9: Orientation and Basics of Food Gardening

- types of plants and when to grow and harvest in the region
- organic gardening
- Grow Appalachia

Week 2, June 16: Plant Biology and Propagation

- how pollination works and the animals and insects involved
- seedling care and transplanting
- garden planning
- weed identification

Week 3, June 23: Soil Structure and Biology

- fertilizers and soil tests
- how fungi and bacteria work with plants
- how to plan and build compost systems

Week of June 30: No Class

Week 4, July 7: Farmers Markets and Merchandising Skills

- money handling and salesmanship
- display, signage, weighing

Week 5, July 14: Marketing and Selling Produce

- selling produce commercially
- value-added products

Week 6, July 21: Food Preservation

- methods of food preservation
- healthy cooking

Week 7, July 28: Wrap up and Final Projects Due

- garden clean up
- final project presentations

Any questions may be directed to Suzi Van Etten, Executive Director, or Sarah Green at 256-0077 or growappalachia@a-spi.org



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Name of Applicant: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Home Phone Number: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

Age: _____

Grade: _____

Activities or jobs you are currently involved in:

List any conflicting commitments you may have in June and July:

Include the following 2 documents with this application:

1. One letter of reference
2. On a separate page, please answer the following questions (1 page typed in 12-point font):
 - Describe why you want to be an intern for the ASPI Grow Appalachia Summer Intern Program
 - What qualities make you a good candidate for this internship?

Signature of Applicant:

Signature of Parent or Guardian:

Return to ASPI, c/o Grow Appalachia Intern Program, 50 Lair Street, Mt Vernon, KY 40456
by Wednesday, May 13, 2015