



Job Description: Summer Youth Program Instructors

Application Deadline: April 21st, 2019

Please send resume, cover letter and 3 references to: lauralyn@urbangrowerscollective.org

About Urban Growers Collective

Urban Growers Collective (UGC) was founded by Laurell Sims and Erika Allen in the fall of 2017. Rooted in Growing Food, we cultivate nourishing environments which support health, economic development, healing and creativity through urban agriculture. Our approach is to demonstrate and support development of community-based food systems where produce is grown, prepared, and distributed within neighborhoods. In this way, communities help themselves by learning how to provide for their own needs in a sustainable manner.

We operate seven urban farms on 11-acres of land predominately located on Chicago's south-side. These farms are production oriented with staff integrating education, training, and production to meet program goals. Each farm site 'demonstrates' the capacity for both large volumes of production and the ecological and social impacts of farming in society. In addition to farming on 11-acres in Chicago, Urban Growers Collective focuses on two key areas: food access and education. To address food access, we operate the Fresh Moves Mobile Markets, a program that transformed three buses into farmers' markets on wheels and sells fresh, culturally appropriate food on the West and Southside of Chicago. Our education programs include youth employment, farmer incubation and training, job-readiness for adults facing barriers to employment, a head-start preschool farm, as well as urban agriculture and equity building workshops and events.

Our core values as an organization honor shared leadership and collective decision making; racial, economic, gender and LGBTQ equity; as well as employee well being: we have witnessed how these values lead to thoughtful, holistic programming and yield environments that nourish and create prosperity.

About Urban Growers Collective's Youth Corps

Urban Growers Collective Youth Corps engages and employs over 300 youth annually throughout our urban farm sites. Our farms serve as a safe space for teens to explore their interests, work collectively, share their talents and learn from one another. During their time spent on the farms, youth expand their understanding of many aspects of urban farming and community food system development.

Through hands on instruction, teens learn the technical skills essential for farming in an urban environment. Teens grow organic vegetables, herbs and flowers and participate in all phases of farm production. Teens learn to produce compost, prep growing beds, and how to identify, plant, harvest and market the vegetables growing at the farm. They also assist with general farm tasks, pest management, site beautification and infrastructure development. At many of our locations, youth also manage an onsite farm stand, increasing access to fresh, healthy, affordable produce for their

community, and providing a window into the economic and entrepreneurial opportunities that exist within food system development.

In addition to hands on instruction at the farm, youth explore the science behind farming, through several inquiry-based experiments and take part in nutrition, hunger, cooking, art, food justice and food politics activities. This program aims to serve as both a job training experience and to encourage leadership development. It is our goal that teens graduate with a comprehensive understanding of sustainable food system development and the ability to connect and communicate how the skills they've gained at the farm translate to any career path they may follow.

Position Description

The Youth Program Instructor will specifically focus on providing instruction during the Urban Growers Collective Youth Corps Summer Program, a six-week program focused on farming, community food system development and leadership opportunities. The Youth Program Instructor will co-facilitate large group activities for 30 teens and provide lead instruction and supervision for breakout sessions of up to 15 teens. The standard program model runs 4 hours a day, 4 days a week, with additional prep time allotted.

Primary responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Recruitment, supervision and orientation of Youth Corps Participants.
- Independently deliver UGC Curriculum to up to 17 students in a farm setting.
- Co-facilitate large group activities for up to 35 teens.
- Maintain organized student paperwork and daily attendance (paper and online).
- Communicate with parents when teens are absent or late to program.
- Coordination and planning of summer lesson plans and curriculum in partnership with Associate Director of Trainings.
- Report incidents or challenges to supervisors and complete necessary paperwork,
- Assist with farm work management, community outreach and production goals as needed.

Desired Qualifications

- Youth leadership development experience and skills.
- Experience teaching in an interactive, project-based environment.
- Interest and knowledge of food systems and organic sustainable farming.
- Ability to establish and maintain positive working relationships with teens, parents, community partners and residents.
- Excellent organization, communication and follow-through skills.
- Maintains appropriate professional boundaries in working with teens.
- Ability to think critically and creatively.
- Ability to work as part of a team in a collaborative environment.
- Passion for food justice, dismantling racism, youth development and urban farming!

Duration: 8 weeks, June 2018 – August 2018 (exact dates TBD)

Compensation: Hourly, commensurate with experience (average \$18-23/hour)

Open Positions

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Roosevelt Square Farm Instructor: Looking for individual with experience working with young people and the ability to teach a multidisciplinary youth program at a farm. Will lead teens in daily farm work and facilitate workshops on science, nutrition, hunger, cooking, work readiness, food justice and food politics activities. Ability to travel and work on the farm, as needed. Priority will be given to candidates with farm management skills and interest/availability to teach this program year-round. This farm is located at 1250 S Loomis Street, Chicago IL.

South Chicago Farm Instructor: Looking for individual with experience working with young people and the ability to teach a multidisciplinary youth program at a farm. Will lead teens in daily farm work and facilitate workshops on science, nutrition, hunger, cooking, work readiness, food justice and food politics activities. Ability to travel and work on the farm, as needed. Priority will be given to candidates with experience leading small groups in bike literacy, repair and safety or public art works such as: murals, community weaving, interactive theater, painting projects. This is a year round program and there may be opportunities to continue instruction during the school year. This farm is located at 9000 S Mackinaw Avenue, Chicago IL.

Grant Park Farm Instructor: Looking for individual with experience working with young people and the ability to teach a multidisciplinary youth program at a farm. Will lead teens in daily farm work and facilitate workshops on science, nutrition, hunger, cooking, work readiness, food justice and food politics activities. Ability to travel and work on the farm, as needed. This is a seasonal position only. This farm is located at 450 S Columbus Drive, Chicago IL.

Learn more about the farm sites at: <https://urbangrowerscollective.org/projects/> Applicants will be interviewed and hired on a rolling basis as applications are accepted.