

## **About Growing Places Indy:**

At Growing Places Indy we grow produce with purpose. We are a 501c3 non-profit organization with a mission to empower people to cultivate personal, family and community wellness through urban agriculture, access to fresh local food, and mind-body education.

Starting with a single garden in White River State Park in the summer of 2010, GPI now manages three urban farm sites totaling 1.5 acres, and has helped numerous other gardens and urban farms take root in Indianapolis. Since 2010, we have grown our farm production and sales from serving a handful of restaurants, to serving more than 40 Indianapolis restaurants and grocers and an annual Vegetable Subscription Program (CSA) for 20-30 households.

In 2012, GPI began offering a farm stand at the Boner Fitness and Learning Center and incorporated the Indy Winter Farmers Market (IWFM), making fresh, local foods available year round. Two years later we built out Indy's first urban U-Pick veggies site, which is open with the Summer Farm Stand. GPI also offers two SNAP matching programs at the IWFM to ensure the quality foods offered are accessible regardless of income level.

We have incorporated yoga practices and philosophy into our educational offerings since 2011, and in 2013 we began offering regular by-donation yoga and meditation classes in the community. In the same year, we piloted our first Live Well classes, incorporating gardening, cooking and nutrition, and mind-body education.

Each year, we witness with delight as our daily work, integrating the cultivation of gardens and local food systems with the cultivation of human well-being, comes together in the form of people who feel empowered to Be Well. We witness with awe how seeds planted in gardens, hearts and minds, change lives, families and communities.

## **Job Description:**

The Summer Apprenticeship Program immerses participants in the work of Growing Places Indy, through hands-on farm work, community engagement, fundraising, youth education, personal development and more. Participants are challenged to consider what change they want to see in the world and are trained in skills they can employ to take personal action. Participants build a strong team relationship within their cohort and have the opportunity to meet many leaders and entrepreneurs doing transformational work in the Indianapolis area.

## **Apprentices will:**

- Learn about urban agriculture through hands-on experiences and educational lessons, obtaining information and skills to teach others. This includes general farming activities (planning, planting, transplanting, cultivation, weeding, etc.) and sales/marketing/distribution activities (CSA, farm stand and restaurant sales). Physical work is a major part of the program, with daily outdoor tasks at Growing Places Indy's farm sites as well as farms, gardens and organizations across the Indianapolis area.
- Engage in the Indianapolis area food system with producers, consumers, advocates and educators, connecting into a network of relationships and opportunities. This may include attending presentations and leading workshops,

speaking engagements and tours for community members.

- Explore and apply practices for personal empowerment including yoga, self-study, cooking, gardening and mindfulness activities. Participants enjoy a daily Kundalini and Vinyasa yoga/mindfulness practice and explore how to apply the philosophy of yoga in day-to-day life and work.

- Develop an integrated understanding of how food access and awareness, agricultural systems, individual and collective lifestyles (or lifestyle choices) impact personal and community wellness, as well as economic and environmental sustainability.

- Investigate how community based food systems support community development. This will include site visits, guest lecturers as well as mandatory readings.

- Learn to comfortably and safely navigate Indianapolis by bicycle. Bicycling is the primary mode of group transit between farms sites, restaurant deliveries and visits to downtown area locations.

- Each apprentice will have an additional role he or she will play to accomplish our collective goals and gain valuable experience. Examples include but are not limited to: farm stand manager, social media assistant, photographer, CSA veggie share leader, after school program leader, restaurant harvest coordinator and fundraising project coordinator.

### **Supervised work:**

Your work will be supervised by GPI's Director of Farm Operations, Tyler Henderson and Director of Education and Outreach, Kat Reiner. Compensation will be in the form of a stipend through the Indiana Sustainability Development Program. Apprenticeship runs from approx. May 29th-August 9th. Apprentice will be required to attend a bootcamp from May 14-18. You will be with the larger apprentice group from June 18-July 27, Monday-Friday (daily schedule varies). The weeks that are not spent with the full apprentice group will be spent doing hands-on farm work with the GPI farm team.

### **Feedback, evaluation, and expectations for accomplishments:**

By the end of the 10-weeks you can expect to the fundamental knowledge of basic farming techniques and be prepared to take over farming operations at IUPUI gardens. Progress will be measured throughout the internship during weekly check-ins. Success in the apprenticeship will be determined by the completion of specified projects in a professional and timely manner. The apprentice should learn how the organization identifies and works to achieve its goals, how to evaluate the effectiveness of Growing Places Indy projects, and how to develop and maintain professional relationships.

### **Additional Application Requirements:**

#### **Short essay**

Please answer the following in a total of 600 words or less:

- What is your primary motivation for applying to participate in this program?
- What skills/talents/ideas do you hope to bring to the apprenticeship?
- What do you hope to get out of this experience? Tell us about your goals and Aspirations.

- What previous gardening, farming, food system, yoga, personal development or other program-related experience do you have?

**Letter of reference**

Please provide a letter of reference from a non-family member. This person should be available by phone in the case we have follow-up questions.

**Working interview**

Mandatory working interview with our Farm Team will be scheduled for a mutually available date in late March or April.

**Background Check**

Due to the nature of our location on a school campus, and the apprentice team's potential interaction with children and families, applicants must agree to a basic background check.

**Application Eligibility**

Eligible participants must be 18 years of age or older and have at least one year of continuing education or work experience post high school. To be accepted, a candidate must be able to fully commit to the weekly schedule for the entire 6-week program, be willing to work hard, have a sincere interest in the subject matter and activities, desire to take on leadership roles and to grow personally. Strongest candidates will be able to articulate a sense of purpose for applying, as well as thoughtful ideas on ways in which they can contribute to the 2018 cohort experience, Growing Places Indy and potential ways they will pay forward the experience. Prior experience in gardening, farm product sales, educational programming and/or the practice of yoga are not required.

A video about our apprenticeship program can be found here:

<https://youtu.be/84u1DgJ0cnc>