

Schooner Farms Internship Application

Internship

The internship program at Schooner Farms is designed to provide practical, hands-on experience to individuals seeking to learn and gain experience in an organic non-conventionally grown community supported garden. Our internship is very demanding - interns work long hours for low pay – but the rewards are invaluable to those wishing to become more aware of how their food is grown. Schooner Farms is one of several organic Community Supported Agriculture Gardens/Farms operating in Northwest Ohio, and our interns are exposed to all aspects of our business.

Our Farm and Location: Our organic vegetable farm is located on 20 acres of black sandy loam in Weston, Ohio. We are just 8 miles west of Bowling Green, Ohio. We have successfully grown in just a year from a 62-member CSA to one that currently has over 100 members. We grow over 50 different types of vegetables, flowers, and herbs and nearly 300 different varieties. To see a list of what we grow, please visit our website at www.schoonerberries.com.

What to Expect as an Intern: An internship at Schooner Farms is a hands-on working and learning experience. It is intense and demanding, but ultimately rewarding. As an intern, you can expect to work long hours in the Ohio heat, both in the fields and in the barn/packing areas. You will work hard physically every day. You will experience times when you will question if you want to be a farmer; you will also have times when you can't envision doing anything else. In short, you will learn what it takes to be a vegetable grower.

Internship Program: At Schooner Farms, we seek to expose our interns to all aspects of our business through a rotation system. All interns will spend time working on the following: field work, greenhouse operations, packing shed operations, and customer service. Interns will be assigned revolving areas of responsibility in an effort to build a broad foundation of knowledge. We also hope to have classes on various aspects of organic farming and self sustainable living, we would encourage our interns to take part in that as well. We have a wide variety of opportunities to offer students.

Workweek: Our workweek is challenging. You will get dirty, you will sweat and you will learn. We have a great team of gardeners, work share volunteers and other volunteers that are fun to work with and have a great deal of knowledge and experience to share.

Time Commitment: Our ideal internship is a minimum of 6 months long, however, we are willing to work with the right individual. We require a minimum of 15 hours a week. Distribution/Harvest days are crucial. Our CSA is a 20 week program that begins roughly around the first of June through mid October, depending on weather.

Work/Experience Desired: We are looking for energetic, enthusiastic, motivated people who are dependable, eager to learn, and willing to become part of our farm team. Our program is not designed for those who just want to give farming or gardening a try. Consequently, we are looking for people willing to work hard so they can enjoy the rewards of being a farmer.

Compensation: A standard organic vegetable share on a weekly basis (\$20/weekly), a doz. organic free range non GMO fed eggs (\$4/weekly), honey, and other natural products we raise on the farm. We do not have a huge amount of dollars to pay our interns but we do offer some monetary compensation. You are not an employee of the farm but are considered a contract gardener, and

will receive a 1099 for tax purposes. We do not take any taxes out of your compensation. You are responsible for any taxes.

Application: Please take the time to consider and thoughtfully respond to the following questions. It is important to answer in a straightforward manner as it will help us determine if you would be a good match for our farm. Once we have received your application, we will follow up with a phone call or email. Qualified applicants will be invited to visit the farm for an on-site interview and tour.

Please email your completed application to this address: info@schoonerberries.com Thank you for your interest in Schooner Farms and for taking the time to complete the application.

SCHOONER FARMS

Internship Questionnaire

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please answer the following questions as thoroughly as possible.

1. Tell me about yourself.
2. Have you had any previous on-farm agricultural experience?
3. What made you want to farm?
4. Why do you want to intern at Schooner Farms?
5. What aspects of farming interest you the most? The least?
6. What do you feel you could contribute to the farm and why should we accept you as an apprentice?
7. What are your long-term career aspirations and how does this apprenticeship fit into that plan? What are your 5 and 10 year plans?
8. Have you ever had a job that was physically demanding? Please elaborate.
9. Have you ever had a job that required doing the same thing for hours at a time?
10. Please describe any physical limitations that might affect your ability to perform certain tasks. Many jobs require light to heavy lifting (up to 60lbs), repetitive grasping and standing, bending, kneeling and walking. Severe hay fever or other allergies should also be considered.

11. Can you commit to the entire 6 month internship term or to an alternating semester plan? When are you available to start? Our season typically begins in March and runs through October. Our program is flexible, meaning we will work with the right applicants as school schedule.

12. The work schedule is 6 days a week. We are willing to work with our interns on scheduling but do require a minimum of 15 hours a week. Is this something you can commit to?

13. Please list all of your work and volunteer experience. (Resumes also accepted for questions 13 and 14)

14. Please list the schools you have attended as well as degrees and major areas of study.

15. Please list any other skills you have.

16. Are you at least 18 years of age and have a valid driver license?

References

1. Work Reference

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone Number: _____
Relationship to you: _____
Number of years reference has known you: _____

2. Work Reference

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone Number: _____
Relationship to you: _____
Number of years reference has known you: _____

3. Personal Reference

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone Number: _____
Relationship to you: _____
Number of years reference has known you: _____

Please email completed application to info@schoonerberries.com