

FAIR FOOD MATTERS – **STUDENT INTERNSHIPS** – KALAMAZOO, MI
The Growing Matters Garden Program

Fair Food Matters is a grassroots non-profit organization that strives to educate, empower, build, and sustain community connections around local food.

Internship Purpose - To provide engaging and valuable work experience for college students through our urban educational gardening program, the Growing Matters Garden.

Internship Duties - Interns will work under the direction of the Growing Matters Garden staff and assist with regular program activities, including:

- Educational gardening sessions with at-risk youth and the larger community
- Maintenance activities such as soil preparation, planting, watering, weeding, mulching, and composting
- Weekly community volunteer events
- Harvesting sessions and preparations for market
- Sales and program representation at farmers' market events

Benefits of Participation - We strive to create opportunities to learn and grow at our gardens. By serving as an intern, students can:

- Increase their understanding of organic gardening practices
- Participate in small-scale market production in an urban environment
- Gain new skills through direct work experience with a local non-profit organization
- Develop valuable connections with a variety of youth and community members

In addition, class credit can likely be arranged through the intern's university or college.

Position Details - We are currently accepting internship applications for the 2009 growing season. Internships begin in Mid-May and continue through the end of August. Positions require approximately 9 -15 hours of service per week (including some evening and weekend rotations). At this point in time, we do not have funding for paid internship positions. Interns would need to work as volunteers or for class credit.

Qualifications - We are looking for candidates who:

- Have an interest in gardening and local foods
- Can commit to and maintain a regular work schedule for the duration of the season
- Are comfortable working in the soil, around insects, and in a variety of weather conditions
- Enjoy working with a diversity of people (including children and teens)
- Work well independently and as a team

How to Apply - Please send a completed internship application form and 2 letters of recommendation (from non-family members) to:

Growing Matters Garden Manager
Fair Food Matters
323 N Burdick St
Kalamazoo MI 49007

Applications are due by April 18, 2009. For more information about our program, please visit our website at www.fairfoodmatters.org. Please send questions to heather@fairfoodmatters.org or call 269-492-1270.

GARDEN INTERNSHIP APPLICATION

Please send completed application and 2 letters of recommendation to:
Growing Matters Garden Manager, Fair Food Matters, 323 N Burdick St, Kalamazoo MI 49007
Applications are due by April 18th, 2009.

Contact and Background Information

Name		
Current Address		Apt. Number
City	State	Zip Code
Permanent Address		Apt. Number
City	State	Zip Code
Phone Number	Email Address	

Are you currently a student? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Name of School: _____ level of study / year : _____
Are you currently employed? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Job Title: _____
Name of Employer: _____

In case of Emergency, please contact:

Name	
Address	
Phone	Relationship

How did you hear about this internship opportunity?

Availability

Please check the days and times you are available to work as a garden intern.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Morning						
Afternoon						
Evening						

Health Information

Do you have any allergies, health or physical conditions that may restrict your activities? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please explain:		
Is it okay for you to work in the sun, heat, or light rain?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are you able to lift at least 40 lbs unassisted?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Criminal History

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please explain:
(A conviction record will not necessarily bar participation, and factors such as age and time offense, seriousness and nature of the violation, and rehabilitation will be taken into account).

I verify that all information contained herein is true to the best of my knowledge. In the interest of the safety of the at-risk youth at the gardens, I consent to having a background check. I agree to follow volunteer guidelines as set out by the Growing Matters Garden program and to perform my internship duties to the best of my abilities. I understand that internship positions are unpaid and either party may cancel this relationship at any point in time.

Signature: _____
(Signature of parent or guardian required if applicant is under 18)

Date: _____

Growing Matters Garden Internship Application Questions

What interests you about our program?

Why would you like to serve as a Growing Matters Garden Intern?

Please share a little about your education so far (including major / minor) and any future career interests you might have.

Please describe any relevant experience you might have (please note that previous experience is not a prerequisite).

Are you interested in pursuing academic credit for this internship? If so, through which department?

Will you be taking college coursework during your internship? If so, please list the course names and the starting / ending dates.