

CEC Sustainable Agriculture Internship

CEC Background: Since 1994 the Corvallis Environmental Center (CEC) has been actively working to educate, engage and inspire people to create a healthier, more sustainable community. The CEC's three core programs are leading the way in achieving these efforts: Avery House Nature Center, Energize Corvallis and the Edible Corvallis Initiative. These programs focus on strengthening people's relationships to nature, food and community – on a local, regional and national level. The CEC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

Position Description: The Sustainable Agriculture intern plays a crucial role in the success of the SAGE Garden. This is a great opportunity for those seeking hands-on experience in small-scale agriculture, local hunger relief, educational gardening, sustainability, permaculture, and connecting people with the food that they eat. As a part of the SAGE team, you will help to grow the 3 tons of food that we donate each year to aid food insecure individuals and families in the local community. We value the input and ideas of SAGE interns in shaping the garden and enhancing its educational function.

Job Responsibilities: Sustainable Agriculture interns will work under the supervision of the Garden Manager and will have the opportunity to do the following:

- Use your creativity to help SAGE to be as enriching a place as possible
- Learn gardening skills, including planning, preparing garden beds, managing fertility, composting, propagation, seeding, transplanting, weeding, mulching, irrigation, tools and tricks of the trade,
- Assist with landscaping and perennial plant care
- Gain hands-on experience with sustainable agriculture practices (seasonality, crop rotations, succession planting, organic pest and disease management, building and maintaining healthy soil, etc.)
- Assist with volunteers and lead work parties in the garden
- Learn about food insecurity in your community
- Help with special events and projects in the garden
- Prepare the garden for upcoming educational programs

Qualifications:

- An ability to communicate effectively with a diversity of people
- Be punctual and reliable and able to commit to a regular schedule
- A willingness to work outside in all types of weather
- The ability to take initiative and receive feedback
- Have at least one 4 hour chunk of availability each week (M-F)
- A desire to learn about sustainable agriculture
- A positive attitude!
- Gardening, agriculture or horticultural experience preferred
- Be able to attend the CEC intern orientation

Schedule:

- The majority of gardening activities and opportunities occur Monday through Friday during the standard work week (8am-5pm). There are additional (optional) opportunities for involvement during Saturday volunteer work parties and / or other CEC evening events.
- Each set of interns coordinate with the Garden Manager to create a schedule that allows for the flexibility of individual schedules while also tending to the garden's needs, and coalescing around the blocks where multiple folks are available.
 - For example; recent work days were:
 - Tuesdays: noon - 4pm
 - Thursdays: 11am-4pm
 - Fridays: noon-4pm
 - With each intern committing to the 2 or 3 of shifts that worked for their schedule. Two interns helped with Saturday Work Parties. Every group will be a little different, and is worked out collectively.
- Both the individual's experience in the garden, and the care of the garden, benefit from the regularity and continuity of care given there. We encourage interns to consider 6-9 month internships for maximum benefit.

Optional: Earn academic credits– available to LBCC & OSU students. See our website and check in with your advisor to see if this internship qualifies for your academic program

To apply: Please complete your application now.. Questions? Email Kyler at SAGE@corvallisenvironmentalcenter.org or call 541.753.9211