



GROWING COMMUNITIES

The Old Firestation

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APPRENTICE GROWERS

Thank you for your enquiry about our food-growing apprenticeships. Please find enclosed:

- A description of what the apprenticeship involves.
- A description of the type of person we are looking for (Person Specification).
- An equal opportunities monitoring form – it will be detached upon receipt and the information used only as part of our monitoring process and not as part of the selection process.

Additional information, including our latest annual report can be found on our website at

www.growingcommunities.org

Growing Communities is a social enterprise run by a small but committed team of local staff and volunteers. We run a weekly Organic Fruit and Veg Box Scheme, three Urban Market Gardens in Hackney, the Patchwork Farm, the Stoke Newington Farmers Market and the Starter Farm in Dagenham.

We are currently recruiting four volunteer Apprentice Growers to learn how to manage an urban market garden and grow food crops to sell. At the end of the apprenticeship you will have the opportunity to apply to run a Patchwork Farm micro-site in Hackney if suitable sites are available.

We are looking for enthusiastic people who are keen to learn how to grow food in a sustainable way, enjoy working outdoors and working with others. We particularly welcome applications from sectors of the community at risk of social exclusion including young unemployed people.

If after reading the information you would like to apply, please enclose a CV and a covering letter which outlines why you would be suitable for this opportunity. Please also state which day you would prefer to volunteer (see below).

Applicants will be short-listed according to how well they meet the criteria in the person specification.

Closing date for applications is **5pm Wednesday 13th February.**

Short listed applicants will be informed by phone by **Friday 15th February.**

If you do not hear by then, please assume that you have not been shortlisted.

Interviews will be held Thursday **28th February.**

Best wishes,

Julie Brown
Director

APPRENTICESHIP DESCRIPTION

Apprentices will learn all aspects of running our Urban Market Gardens by:

1. Assisting the Grower/Assistant Grower on site one day a week. Tasks include seed sowing, planting out, record keeping, weeding, watering, making compost.
2. Helping to harvest and then pack salad on a Tuesday evening for our weekly organic Fruit & Veg Box Scheme.
3. Supporting and supervising volunteers.
4. Attending 6 evening tutorials in organic food growing at Allens Gardens, with additional training sessions in growing under glass at our Starter Farm in Dagenham.
5. Supervising the garden work day and harvest when the Grower is absent.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Successful applicants will be able to show that they:

- Want to grow, sell and distribute food in Hackney
- Are committed to the aims of Growing Communities
- Are able to work outdoors throughout the year in all weathers
- Are reliable, hardworking and organised
- Would benefit from this apprenticeship
- Work well with other people
- Could supervise volunteers

Desirable

- Have some experience in growing food
- Are a confident cyclist
- Have practical skills appropriate to setting up a growing site
- Have volunteered with Growing Communities or another growing site

Four apprenticeships are available:

Apprenticeship 1: Monday 9am – 4pm + Tues 2pm – evening*

Apprenticeship 2: Thursday 9am – 4pm + Tues 2pm – evening*

Apprenticeship 3: Tuesdays only 9am – evening*

Apprenticeship 4: Tuesdays only 9am – evening*

(* around 6.30pm in spring and autumn, 9.30pm at peak harvest season in summer)

- The apprenticeships start at the beginning of April and run for 28 weeks
- Six tutorials take place on the second Monday of the month in the evening. There are additional glasshouse training days at the Starter Farm in Dagenham, dates to be confirmed.
- The apprenticeships are unpaid, although apprentices receive free weekly fruit and veg bags.
- The work is based at our three Urban Market Gardens: Springfield Park, Allens Gardens and Clissold Park, and the packing area at The Old Fire Station, Leswin Road, N16.

Please state which day you would prefer.

(Scroll down to Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form)

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES MONITORING FORM

We monitor all applicants and it would be helpful if you would complete the monitoring form attached. This monitoring information will help us check the selection decision was made on fair grounds. All information will be held in strict confidence.

JOB TITLE:

Gender: Male ☐ Female ☐

Age: Less than 35 ☐ 35-49 ☐ Over 50 ☐

Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

To which ethnic groups do you belong? (This section uses the same categories as Hackney Council.)

African ☐ Caribbean ☐ UK Black ☐

Asian ☐ White ☐ Cypriot Greek ☐

Cypriot Turkish ☐ Irish ☐ Orthodox Jewish ☐

Other ☐
(please specify)