

Liberty Prairie Foundation

POSITION DESCRIPTION

POSITION TITLE: Local Food Community Outreach Intern; two positions available
LOCATION: Grayslake, IL
ORGANIZATION: Liberty Prairie Foundation
REPORTS TO: Program Associate, and President/CEO

BACKGROUND:

The Liberty Prairie Foundation was established in 1993 and is nationally recognized as a leader in developing and supporting enterprises that build and strengthen our local food system while enhancing the natural landscape. The Foundation provides leadership and financial support for local food system development, social entrepreneurship, land conservation, environmental education and civic engagement initiatives in our region. We envision a world where people of all ages are deeply connected to their food, land and community, and therefore make choices toward sustainable systems in nature and society. We are headquartered on the 100-acre certified organic Prairie Crossing Farm in the Prairie Crossing conservation community in Grayslake.

Two of the Foundation's programs are:

- The Farm Business Development Center, located at the Prairie Crossing Farm, is a business incubator that provides land, infrastructure, and resources to help beginning farmers develop the entrepreneurial skills, farming knowledge and market networks needed to become successful farmers. In 2014, the Farm Business Development Center provided support for three farm enterprises in residence and is working with several farmers to help them secure long-term land access in Lake County.
- Educational programming at the Prairie Crossing Farm is designed to educate and inspire people to value healthy food, land and community through experiences on our farm. Our Prairie Farm Corps program offers paid work opportunities and job training for diverse youth in central Lake County. Participants are involved in all aspects of a sustainable agriculture business from seed to market. Our farm educators also work closely with students from the Montessori School of Lake Forest. Students are engaged in on-farm lessons and work experiences that integrate agriculture with science, math, language, nutrition, social studies, and economics.

In addition to our programs, we are involved with transportation, environmental, and food policy at the local, regional and state levels. The Foundation owns several properties in Prairie Crossing, including the Byron Colby Barn, the 100-acre certified organic Prairie Crossing Farm and the community gardens. Visit our website at www.libertyprairie.org for more information.

POSITION SUMMARY:

This internship is focused on community engagement and distributing fresh vegetables via multiple programs to underserved communities. The position offers the successful candidate a diverse and meaningful experience in the area of food systems with a dynamic and leading organization in the field.

The intern will: conduct outreach activities to communities and organizations pursuing local food initiatives; coordinate a fresh vegetable distribution program with a local community partner organization; run a gleaning program; and distribute vegetables to voucher recipients of the Women Infant Children (WIC) Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP).

ESSENTIAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Coordinate distribution of fresh vegetables grown by the Prairie Farm Corps to Waukegan, thus increasing the amount of fresh food available to the community.
- Attend vegetable distribution days to talk with community members about the importance of fresh, healthy vegetables and educate residents about their local food system.
- Coordinate the Foundation's new gleaning program: lead and coordinate each bi-weekly gleaning event; recruit the appropriate number of volunteers for each event; distribute gleaned vegetables to local community groups and food pantries.
- Distribute vegetables to voucher recipients of the Women Infant Children (WIC) Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP); bring vegetables to local WIC office and conduct a brief nutrition education program.
- Coordinate the Foundation's seedling donation program.
- Lead tours of the Prairie Crossing Farm.
- Ability to converse in English required; ability to converse in Spanish a plus.
- Must be able to lift up to 20 pounds.
- Must have a valid drivers license.
- Access to a car is helpful, but not required.
- All applicants must be willing to work outdoors in all weather conditions.
- Other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND BACKGROUND:**Education:**

Working towards a BA/BS or MA/MS degree in food systems, business, environmental science, communications, policy, research or related field.

Experience:

Past coursework, internship, work or volunteer experience in food systems and food research, program development or communications. Experience working with those with limited food access and disadvantaged populations, and experience maintaining a website and organizational social media are pluses.

Knowledge/Skills:

- Excellent writing and communication skills.
- Experience working in or studying food systems, agriculture, public health, education, community organizing, or public service.

- Ability to work independently and to engage in independent and group problem solving and decision-making.
- Knowledge of and comfort with Microsoft Office Suite, Google Docs and social media sites.
- Ability to communicate in a culturally appropriate and sensitive manner to effectively bring out the best in people of varying backgrounds.

Other:

Interest in or knowledge of sustainable agriculture, local food/food systems or community development demonstrated by past coursework, internship, volunteer or work experience.

Salary:

\$12.50 per hour, 35 hours per week. Housing for the duration of the internship is available.

Start Date:

Flexible start date in June 2015, however, there may be an opportunity for limited spring hours.

End Date:

August 2015, flexible.

How to Apply:

Send cover letter and resume to Emily Weber at Emily@libertyprairie.org by Feb. 27.

The Liberty Prairie Foundation does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations.