



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.
- 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 local people. We run a weekly Organic Fruit and Veg Box Scheme, the Stoke Newington Farmers Market and three Urban Market Gardens.

We are currently recruiting four volunteer Apprentice Growers to join our small but committed team of staff and volunteers. At the end of the apprenticeship, we aim to provide you with a piece of land in Hackney and the necessary tools to grow your own organic salad as part of our Patchwork Farm project.

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, refugees, and people with mental health problems.

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 Monday 5th March.**

Short listed applicants will be informed by phone by **Thursday 8th March.**

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

Interviews will be held Thursday **15th March.**

Best wishes,

Julie Brown
Director

APPRENTICESHIP DESCRIPTION

Main Activities:

Learn about all aspects of planting, maintaining and developing our three Urban Market Gardens by:

1. Assisting the Grower/Assistant Grower on site one.
2. Attending a monthly evening tutorial plus 6 days training in growing under glass.
3. Helping harvest, transport and pack produce for our weekly Organic Fruit & Veg Box Scheme.
4. Supporting and supervising volunteers at our Urban Market Gardens.
5. Supervising the harvest and liaising with the Box Scheme Coordinator when the Grower is absent.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential

- Desire to grow food in a sustainable way in Hackney.
- Commitment to the aims of Growing Communities.
- Ability to work outdoors throughout the year in all weathers.
- Ability to work with other people.
- Ability to prioritise tasks and meet deadlines.
- Ability to supervise volunteers.
- Commitment to taking on a Patchwork Farm micro-site in Hackney for minimum 2 years.

Desirable

- Some experience in growing food
- Experience of working with volunteers.
- Ability to cycle with a bike trailer.

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 early and late season, 9.30pm at peak harvest season)

- The apprenticeships start at the beginning of April and run for 28 weeks
- Six tutorials & review sessions take place on the second Monday of the month in the evening. Six glasshouse training dates to be confirmed.
- The apprenticeships are voluntary, although apprentices receive free weekly fruit and veg bags.
- They are 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.

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)