Internship at Grow Benzie

Contact: Deb Query  231 882 9801

Email: dqmobility@gmail.com

www.growbenzie.org

General Description:

Grow Benzie is a 3.7 acre farmstead in Benzie County, just over the hill from beautiful Crystal Lake and near the new public boat launch, at 5885 M115 in Benzonia, (between Benzonia and Frankfort), and about 5 miles from Lake Michigan. Benzie County serves as the Gateway to Sleeping Bear National Park, which was designated by ABC in a poll in 2011 as the most beautiful spot in America, with which we happen to agree! Grow Benzie serves as a center for the community, drawing together people interested in bettering the lives of Benzie County residents through education in agriculture, nutrition, job and life skills.

We have 25 community gardens, with 4 dedicated to the local food banks. Two industrial sized greenhouses have been renovated and we have room to expand more gardens. We host our own Farmer’s Market on Mondays, and attend others as well. We use organic farming methods and are very involved in supporting our local farmers, and the local food movement. We have recently completed our kitchen and will be using it as an incubator/business site, the only one in northern Michigan. We host a major fund raising event in July and always need new ideas and help.

Internship dates:  April 1

Internship ending date:  Negotiable, preferably late October

Skills Desired:  Passion for farming with desire to gain small-scale organic farming knowledge and experience. Need to enjoy people, as helping with the Farmer’s Market and with children and adults who come to the gardens and greenhouses will be some of the duties. Physically fit with a willingness to do hard work. Desire to learn and share new skills. Assisting the greenhouse manager with teaching both gardening and nutrition classes offered to both children and adults. Greenhouse/garden tasks will involve making and planting soil blocks, maintaining compost piles, watering, attending flower/herb
beds, greenhouse planting, transplanting soil blocks, and harvesting. Interns report to the Greenhouse manager.

Preference will be given to those with previous greenhouse/nursery experience, previous organic production, farmer’s market experience, working with children in both gardening and nutrition.

This is an opportunity to gain full-scale experience with an organization still in its infancy, much like a beginning farmer. We are hoping to expand our Farmer’s Market to reach more people in the community, promote local food production, try new and different approaches and encourage much more nutritional, healthy choice diets. Opportunities will be provided to visit several local farms in the area, and meet with local chefs who purchase our produce.

Housing: Can be provided.

Stipend: To be discussed, based on skills and experience.