



Roots & Wisdom

creating community through agriculture

Summer Crew Leader Job Description

Roots and Wisdom's mission is to engage the diverse population of Schenectady County - particularly youth - in serving their community through the support of a sustainable local food system. Participants experience personal growth and development leading to positive social change.

We work with Schenectady County youth to grow organic vegetables for donation to local food pantries and shelters and for sale at local farmers' markets. Workshops and discussions about nutrition, sustainable agriculture, food systems, leadership, diversity, and service are an integral part of the program.

Responsibilities

Each Crew Leader leads a group of ten to twelve teens (ages 14-18) who work together throughout a six-week Summer Growing Program. Leaders work with and supervise their crew to carry out gardening activities in our urban gardens in Schenectady. Regular workshops and discussions focus on specific issues, including such things as food systems, nutrition, leadership, and diversity. Periodically, crews provide service in local programs addressing hunger, nutrition, and children/youth. Crews will sell vegetables at a farmers' market and participate in other marketing activities. Crew Leaders are responsible for the safety and well-being of their crew in all settings.

Requirements

Applicants must have prior experience working with teens, interest in community service, and the ability to motivate a group of people. One year of college is required. Successful applicants will be able to work as part of a team, and take on a leadership role. They must be dependable, flexible, organized, and have a sense of humor. Previous farm or garden experience is not required, but applicants must be able to perform demanding physical labor.

Commitment

Crew leaders will work Monday through Friday from June 30th through August 14th (no work on July 3, 2009). This includes three days of training. Hours are approximately 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, with slight changes some days.

Compensation

Crew leaders will be paid an hourly wage.

Application Process

Applications are due by May 8, 2009. Phone or in-person interviews will be scheduled after that date. If you have any questions please contact Debbie by email debbie@rootswisdom.org or phone 518-441-9850.



creating community through agriculture

**SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM
CREW LEADER REFERENCE**

APPLICANT: Please put your name here: _____

Give this form to a professor, supervisor, or other adult who knows you well but who is not a member of your family. (If you have downloaded this form from our web site, remember to give them the information sheet as well.) Explain to that person why you would like to work for **Roots and Wisdom** this summer. Ask them to fill out the reference and mail it to us before May 8, 2009.

REFERENCE WRITER:

Thank you for taking the time to offer your perspective on this college student! He or she is interested in participating in a new and exciting program in Schenectady County this summer. The information on the reverse side of this form will give you an idea of what the program is about and what their responsibilities will be. Your reference is an important part of the hiring process.

Mail this form and your reference to: Roots and Wisdom, 107 Nott Terrace, Suite 301; Schenectady, NY 12308

If you would prefer to respond electronically, please send an email to debbie@rootswisdom.org with a subject line of: Reference for *applicant's name*. Please remember to include all of the information requested below.

Your name: _____ Title _____

School or Organization: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Please answer the following questions as fully as possible and attach your answers to this sheet.

1. How long, and in what capacity, have you known this person? What do you know about his or her work habits, leadership style, accountability, and communication skills?
2. How would you assess their ability to work with and motivate teens?
3. In your opinion, how could this person serve Roots and Wisdom? What challenges do you think they would face working with us?
4. Please give us any other information that might be relevant to working with this person.



roots & wisdom

creating community through agriculture

INFORMATION SHEET FOR REFERENCE WRITERS

Our mission - Roots and Wisdom's mission is to engage the diverse population of Schenectady County-particularly youth-in serving their community through the support of a sustainable local food system. Participants experience personal growth and development leading to positive social change.

What we do - Roots and Wisdom works with Schenectady County youth to grow organic vegetables for donation to local food pantries and shelters and for sale at local farmers' markets. Workshops and discussions about nutrition, sustainable agriculture, food systems, leadership, diversity, and service are an integral part of the program.

Where we work- Our office and a small urban garden site are located at the Horticulture Center in Schenectady's Central Park. We have additional gardens on Fehr Avenue, in Vale Cemetery, and in Orchard Street Park.

Who we hire and what they will do- This summer we will hire Schenectady County youth from 14 to 18 years old. Youth will come from the city and the surrounding towns. Youth will work as part of a crew to plant, tend, and harvest vegetables. They will help to deliver the food they grow to food pantries and shelters in the county. They will sell some of the food at a neighborhood farmers' market. Roots and Wisdom is a youth development program as well as a job, and youth will regularly participate in workshops and discussions relevant to the program.

The role of crew leaders - Each Crew Leader leads a group of ten teens who work together throughout the six-week Summer Growing Program. Leaders work with and supervise their crew to carry out farming and gardening activities; provide service to local hunger alleviation program, and sell produce at farmers' markets. Daily workshops and discussions focus on specific issues, including such things as food systems, nutrition, leadership, and diversity. Crew Leaders are responsible for the safety and well-being of the crew in all settings.

How you can help - Please send us the completed form and reference letter for the college student who has approached you. We must have this letter before we can schedule an interview for this person, so please send it to us before May 8, 2009. If you have any questions, please contact us by phone (372-1622 ext.286) or email (debbie@rootswisdom.org).

Thank you for your assistance!