

Common Threads Farm

Practicum: Engaging Youth in Sustainable Food Systems

Salary: \$13.69 per hour, 240 hours throughout the course of the summer, averaging 24 hours/week for 10 weeks (*paid by the Office of Sustainability*)

Supervisor: Jenna Deane, Program Manager

Period of Employment: June 7, 2021 – August 27, 2021 (start date is negotiable based on student's finals schedule, student will be unavailable the week of June 14-18)

Overview

Common Threads connects kids to healthy food in the garden, in the kitchen, and at the table. We want kids to grow up making food choices that are good for their bodies, their communities, and the environment. Founded in 2007 and based in Bellingham, Washington, Common Threads is a grassroots, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that promotes a “seed to table” approach to food production, good nutrition, and environmental stewardship. Most of our programs take place on public school grounds, during the school day. Common Threads also runs after-school gardening and cooking programs at schools and low-income apartment complexes, and spring/summer camps at an urban farm site. During the Covid19 Pandemic, our focus has shifted toward food production and distribution as well as delivery of on-line educational content.

At Common Threads, we are actively committed to social equity and justice and strongly encourage candidates of all racial and gender identities, cultural and economic backgrounds, and of any sexual orientation to apply for employment and service opportunities.

The sustainability intern will work closely with Common Threads' team of AmeriCorps Food Educators to run programs that engage youth from seed to table to soil. One of our hopes for the sustainability intern is that they will bring a specific climate change/sustainability lens to all of our activities and help enhance that aspect of our programming in particular. This could include designing new lessons or enhancing existing lessons focused on food waste, composting, food miles, etc. The intern will have ample opportunities to pilot their lessons with students of various demographics and then refine based on that feedback. The intern will also engage with our vermi-composting systems, and our programs focused specifically on youth living in higher risk environments where the impacts of climate change are often felt most severely.

Responsibilities

- Enhance summer program activities with sustainability/climate science lens
- Attend weekly team meetings in order to best collaborate with Food Educator team
- Improve school compost programming (which may include both curriculum and signage)
- Evaluate and act upon opportunities for Common Threads partner schools to pursue Washington Green Schools certification

Required Qualifications and Experience

- Ability to pass a background check (provided by Common Threads) for working with children
- Comfort and experience working with children

- Ability to get to various program sites by bus, bike, foot, or car
- Proficiency in Spanish or Russian a plus
- Experience with lesson planning a plus
- Comfort with social media a plus
- Members of BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ communities strongly encouraged to apply

Educational/Professional Benefits

- Opportunity to work with a vibrant, engaged team of educators
- Nonprofit experience
- Hands-on teaching experience
- Invitation to participate in all Common Threads trainings during, before and after internship (once part of the Common Threads family, always part of the Common Threads family!)