



FOOD GROWING TRAINEES (voluntary)

Learn to grow and sell plants and food in the heart of Tower Hamlets

ROLE OVERVIEW

Stepney City Farm is recruiting 4 Volunteer Food Growing Trainees. The traineeship runs from February - July 2018. Trainees will work one day a week and gain knowledge experience in community food growing. In addition there will be regular evening tutorials teaching different aspects of organic gardening. You will work with our two Grower-trainers, learning all aspects of running an Urban Market Garden and Plant nursery within a City Farm.

We are looking for enthusiastic people who are keen to learn about growing food in a sustainable way, and who enjoy working outdoors and with other people.

We can also offer opportunities for specialising in the following areas:

- Bangladeshi Vegetables,
- Environmental Education,
- Green Care,
- Working with Outlets/Growing to sell,
- Plant sales.

Volunteers make a significant contribution to the running of Stepney City Farm. We are committed to creating meaningful and productive roles for volunteers, and to supporting them in the development of their skills, knowledge and experience. These opportunities are suitable for those wishing to develop knowledge in food growing, and gain hands-on experience with a view to starting a career in the sector. Please note that although this role does not involve a contractual agreement, we are looking for candidates willing and able to commit to one day per week for a 6 month period.

ABOUT STEPNEY CITY FARM

Stepney City Farm is a working farm and registered charity based in Tower Hamlets. We provide opportunities for the local community to learn about high welfare ecological farming and improve well-being through visiting the farm and taking part in farm activities. We are open to the public 6

days a week, all year round. We rear animals for food and for education, and grow fruit, vegetables and plants for sale. We sell plants and farm produce to the local community through our farm shop and attendance at occasional events within the local area. We also supply restaurants and pop-ups as well as our own Farm Café, which serves hot meals, tea, coffee and cakes. On Saturdays there is a Farmers' Market and monthly family activities which attract lots of local residents.

DETAILS

Opportunity:	Food Growing Trainee
Location:	Stepney City Farm, Stepney Way, London, E1 3DG
Salary:	VOLUNTARY
Hours:	10am-4pm one day a week Plus an evening tutorial once every 6 weeks
Duration:	February - July 2018
Responsible to:	Grower-Trainers
Application process	Email Cover letter and CV to growing@stepneycityfarm.org by 5pm 20th December
Interviews	10th / 11th January

TRAINEESHIP DESCRIPTION

Trainees will learn all aspects of running an urban market garden and community plant shop by:

- Assisting the Grower-Trainers in the garden one day a week. Garden tasks include:
 - Seed sowing
 - Planting out & potting on
 - Weeding
 - Watering
 - Harvesting, weighing and packing produce
- Supporting and supervising volunteers
- Attending 4 tutorials in organic food growing
- Setting up and staffing produce and plant stalls onsite
- Occasional responsibilities include delivering produce to outlets, running stalls at other events
- Optional opportunities to focus on different topics as outlined in the overview above.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Please read the following person specification carefully and respond to each point in your cover letter:

Successful applicants will be able to show that they have the following ESSENTIAL qualities:

- Want to grow, sell and distribute food
- Are able to work outdoors throughout the year in all weathers
- Are reliable, hardworking and organised
- Would benefit from this traineeship
- Work well with other people
- Could supervise volunteers
- Are interested in ethical and environmentally friendly food production

The following qualities are DESIRABLE:

- Have some experience in growing food or gardening
- Ability to speak Bengali or Sylheti
- Have practical skills such as carpentry
- Have volunteered with us before

Please also let us know the following information in your application:

- If you are interested in any of the potential specialisms (as described in the role overview above) which one and why
- Which days you are available for the one day a week and which evenings for the 4 tutorials.

FURTHER INFORMATION

What we can offer you:

- Food Growing Training according to organic and permaculture principles
- Experience growing food and raising plants, working with volunteers, participating in a small and busy environmental and community charity
- Information about possible training opportunities
- A friendly, exciting and supportive place to work
- Potential for progression

We welcome applications from all sections of the community.

Stepney City Farm is a registered charity, number 1136448.