



FOOD GROWING TRAINEESHIPS

Stepney City Farm wishes to recruit six trainees for its volunteer Food Growing Trainee programme. We seek enthusiastic adults who enjoy working outdoors and with other people, and who are keen to gain the knowledge and experience of growing sustainable food in the community. This is an exciting opportunity to acquire practical horticultural skills that could lead to paid employment or further training.

Working alongside our two experienced horticulture grower-trainers, trainees will learn all aspects of running an urban market garden, plant nursery and plant shop within a working City Farm.

All trainees will be required to commit to volunteering at Stepney City Farm for one day a week (every Wednesday, 10am-4pm) from April to September 2019, plus attending four evening training sessions (dates tbc).

ABOUT STEPNEY CITY FARM

Stepney City Farm is a three acre working farm and a rural oasis in the heart of Tower Hamlets, offering children and adults the chance to interact with farm animals, learn how to grow food and try out arts and crafts. We provide a welcoming space for bringing diverse communities together, and cultivate wellbeing through high-welfare, environmentally sustainable farming practices. Open to the public between 10am-4pm (closed Mondays), the Farm is free to all and everyone is welcome.

Stepney City Farm is also an educational charity with a mission to improve lives through farming and horticulture: over 5,000 schoolchildren and young people benefit from funded classes, tours and projects every year. We rear animals for their meat and eggs and grow fruit, vegetables, herbs and edible flowers. The Farm hosts a popular Farmer's Market every Saturday, sells produce to the local community through our farm shop and at local events, and supplies local restaurants, pop-ups and our own Farm Café.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Food Growing Trainees will learn all aspects of running an urban market garden and community plant shop by assisting the grower-trainers in the farm gardens one day a week. You will experience the challenges and pleasures of growing vegetables utilising sustainable regenerative methods without using machinery. Evening training sessions and structured practical activities will support your regular garden tasks.

Regular garden tasks include:

- Weeding
- Watering
- Seed sowing
- Planting out and potting on
- Harvesting, weighing and packing produce
- Supporting and supervising other volunteers
- Setting-up and staffing onsite produce and plant stalls, and occasionally running stalls at other events

Skills you will acquire:

- Soil care
- Crop rotation
- Plant propagation
- Observation skills
- Composting systems
- Kitchen/garden liaison
- Post-harvest processing
- Use of green manures and companion plants
- Organic weed, pest and disease management
- Knowledge of permaculture principles and design
- Cultivation of annual and perennial food plants, including forest gardening

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Please read carefully and respond to the following points in your cover letter.

Successful applicants will be expected to demonstrate the following **ESSENTIAL** qualities:

- Ability to work well with other people
- How you would benefit from this traineeship
- The ability to work outdoors and in all weathers throughout the traineeship
- Are reliable, hardworking, organised and able to work on your own initiative
- An interest in sustainable food production and the desire to put that interest into practice

The following qualities are **DESIRABLE**:

- Practical skills (e.g. carpentry)
- Ability to speak Bengali or Sylheti
- You have volunteered with us before
- Previous experience of growing food or gardening

What we can offer you:

- Information about other training opportunities
- Experience in growing food and raising plants
- A friendly, stimulating and supportive workplace
- Participation in a busy farming and community environment
- Food Growing Training according to organic and permaculture principles

APPLICATION DETAILS

Before applying, please first read the project description and person specification.

Opportunity: Food Growing Trainee

Location: Stepney City Farm, Stepney Way, London E1 3DG

Salary: Voluntary

Hours: 10am-4pm one day a week (Wednesday), plus an evening tutorial once every 6 weeks.

Duration: April – September 2019

Responsible to: Horticulture Training and Development Lead

Applications:

Please email a cover letter and CV to tiffany@stepneycityfarm.org by 9am on Wednesday 27th February 2019. Interviews will be held in the first two weeks of March 2019.

We welcome applications from all sections of the community.
Stepney City Farm is a registered charity, number 1136448.