



2023 Internship Opportunities

Name of site: **Unity Gardens Inc.**
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Phone: (574) 315-4361
Site contact person: Sara Stewart (sara@theunitygardens.org)
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MISSION: The Mission of the Unity Gardens Inc. is to connect our community to healthy food, the natural environment, and one another. We do this through supporting over 40 open gardens, providing free garden classes, and hosting a variety of summer wellness programs.

JOB DESCRIPTION: Opportunities are as endless and flexible as creativity allows! Past interns have majored in a variety of subjects including: Agriculture, Environmental Science, Political Science, Education, Social Justice/Outreach, Journalism, Art and Photography, Civil Engineering, Anthropology, Ecology, Public Health, Marketing, Communication, and much more. Considering that scope, job possibilities include the following:

Free-Pick Garden: Interns use permaculture and ecosystem principles to care for vegetables, perennials, and animals. Interns will welcome and help visitors find food to pick, share recipes, and lead volunteer groups in the garden.

Garden Guide: Interns greet garden visitors, help visitors find food, share and gather recipes, and collect qualitative and quantitative data for research. Garden Guides also engage children and families, help design activities, and engage them in play in the garden.

Kids' Discovery Garden: Interns manage Kids' Discovery Garden to engage children in free play through tasting plants, exploring nature, handling chickens, and using the activity stations.

Market Garden: Interns help manage 4 hoop houses and outdoor raised beds, manage pests, harvest for Farmer's Market, and develop marketing materials. We sell produce, plants, honey, and value added products at the South Bend Farmer's Market, 3-4 days/week.

Educational Opportunities: Each new project requires research and ongoing learning. Teaching opportunities abound, whether it is demonstrating how to pick peppers for visitors, leading a volunteer or school group, hosting a cooking demo, or presenting a garden lecture to a class.

More: Interns can help manage the 1+ acre vegetable garden, native plant garden, herbal garden, food forest and mushroom cultivation. Interns can lead volunteer groups, tour visitors through the garden, take pictures for social media, develop garden signage, design and carry out environmental research projects, create art in the garden, and connect with the other neighborhood Unity Gardens. Fund raising, event planning and grant writing are other opportunities!

Neighborhood Unity Gardens: Interns work throughout Saint Joseph County, primarily at our LaSalle Square Unity Garden. There are options to work at a variety of gardens and on-site at our Welcome Center. When at the gardens, it is expected that interns will treat all garden contacts with respect and courtesy in a non-discriminatory manner.

DIRECT CONTACT WITH POPULATION SERVED: Interns will have direct contact with those who come to the gardens, whether they be volunteer groups, harvesters, civic leaders, or program participants.



SUPERVISION: Intern will work directly with business and horticultural staff (Managers, team members) and Executive Director and independently as projects are assigned.

ORIENTATION: Initial work will be in the garden acclimating to the culture and organizational tempo. Interns will gain knowledge on the garden's history, mission, visions, and goals. Each intern has the opportunity to take a special project in an area of their interest. Second and third year interns (Advanced and Senior) serve as leaders to the intern team, help with activities conducive to organizational sustainability, and can focus on the areas that interest them most.

WORKPLACE DESCRIPTION: The setting is outside work in the garden farm and throughout the community, including South Bend Farmers Market. The LaSalle Square Unity Garden is a 7 acre non-for-profit urban garden which grows free-pick food for everyone to enjoy! We grow to reduce healthy food barriers, foster connection and opportunity in the community, promote the urban ecosystem of native plants, food plants, pollinators, birds, and more. This central Unity Garden supplies ~40 other Unity Gardens throughout St. Joseph County with plants, seeds, tools and know-how. The 7-acre location is designed as a garden-park with fruit trees, berries, bees, chickens, goats, and vegetable and native flower gardens. Solar panels power the electricity, mulch and compost power the plants, and hoop houses allow year-round growing in the Market Garden. Next year we will also be installing a Growing Spaces geodesic dome for more tropical growing. The food forest, native plants, herbal garden, and companion plants are used to minimize pest damage while beautifying the garden. We are 2 miles from downtown South Bend which boasts many community events, buses, and bike routes, and is an easy day-trip to Chicago.

DATE PREFERENCE/PREFERRED WORK SCHEDULE: During the months of April through September hours are consistently needed. Days, evenings, and weekends are all available as scheduling is flexible. Twenty to 40 hours a week in the summer internship program is typical. Additional opportunities can be designed per individual learning objectives and scheduling needs.

STUDENT QUALIFICATIONS:

The Unity Gardens Intern will be expected to:

- Utilize computers and social media
- Communicate proficiently promptly, & professionally via group me, phone, text, email, writing, or in public speaking venues
- Use critical thinking skills to prioritize, make decisions, and actively inquire as needed
- Proactively schedule, commit, and work the hours and time frames agreed upon
- Adhere to all applicable local, state, and federal laws and guidelines
- Serve as exemplary examples of safe and respectful social behavior honoring our inclusive framework

DRESS CODE: Outdoor wear, masks, closed shoes. Weather appropriate attire. Unity Gardens t-shirts may be provided as needed.

CONTACT SARA FOR INFORMATION AND QUESTIONS!