

Garden Manager Position Description

Position: Garden Manager

Location: South Minneapolis

Organization: Minnesota FoodShare, Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches

Hours: 15 hours/week

Length of Internship: Ideally mid-May to mid-October

Compensation: \$12/hour

Deadline: Position open until filled. Please submit resume/application to Courtney Zaato, czaato@gmcc.org.

Project: Wuju Wakan (Dakota for Sacred Plants) is a garden operated by Minnesota FoodShare, a program of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches, to supply the Division of Indian Work (DIW) food shelf, Horizon's Unlimited, with fresh produce for the Native American community of South Minneapolis. In 2015 the garden produced 1000 pounds of produce. With the help of numerous volunteer groups, Minnesota FoodShare runs the garden and operates a free farmers market outside the food shelf once/week during the growing season to distribute the produce. Wuju Wakan is approximately 50'x70' and is located in the backyard of a home in the Standish-Ericsson neighborhood.

Position Description: The garden manager will be responsible for overseeing the maintenance and expansion of Wuju Wakan. Manager will be responsible for plant selection, garden layout, garden maintenance, harvesting, delivering produce, and other projects. Manager will be sensitive to the residents who live on-site, as well as Native planting traditions. The garden manager will work with various youth groups, volunteers, and students in the garden, as well as oversee garden assistance from a Native youth intern. Manager will have the opportunity to gain intercultural work experience, contribute to increasing food-access in the Twin Cities, learn about food shelves, work with summer school youth, gain experience coordinating volunteers, and network within the urban farming community. Manager needs to be comfortable working independently, being the main staff responsible for cultivating the garden, and transporting produce from the garden to the food shelf. If the manager does not have their own transportation for hauling produce, s/he will have to pass a driving background check, so they can use an organization van to transport produce.

Other potential opportunities include: Receiving coaching on permaculture design, cleaning/packaging produce, planning garden events, developing educational materials to work with youth in the garden, creating recipe cards or handing out samples of food to promote produce consumption at the free farmers market, and other duties as assigned.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Experience gardening, working with diverse populations, and coordinating volunteers
- Reliable, independent, self-starter
- Work well individually and in groups
- Strong communication skills; able to work closely with supervisor to communicate the progression of garden projects and needs
- Experience with and sensitivity to Native American culture
- Reliable transportation—able to get to/from garden in timely manner; able to deliver produce to food shelf
- Willing to complete a driving background check (if organization van is needed to deliver produce)
- Willing to complete a background check
- Interest or experience in hunger issues/equal food access
- Able to lift up to 50 lbs and work outdoors in varied weather conditions

Interested?

Please email resume and application to Courtney Zaato, Minnesota FoodShare Program Coordinator, czaato@gmcc.org.

The Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches has a diverse work environment which we sought and desire. As such, we are an Affirmative Action / Equal Rights Employer.

Garden Manager Application Questions

This position is 15 hours per week with a flexible schedule based on the manager's availability and the needs of the garden. The ideal candidate will be available from May 15 – October 15. How will this fit in with your schedule and what days/hours are you available?

Why are you interested in this position?

What type of gardening/farming experience do you have?

Share a time you worked with a group of people from a different cultural background than your own.

Have you coordinated volunteers and, if so, in what capacity?

Do you have reliable transportation to get to/from the garden? If you need to use the organization's van to transport produce, are you willing to pass a driving background check?