

# **CAC AMERICORPS SERVICE POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT at CAC Urban Agriculture (Beardsley Farm and Green Thumb)**

**Service Position Title:** Urban Agriculture Steward, AmeriCorps Position Full-time

**Immediate Supervisor:** Farm Manager and Urban Agriculture Director

The **CAC Urban Agriculture** program has been a leader in sustainability and food security since 1973 and hosts Knoxville's oldest community agriculture programs. Our educational farm, Beardsley Community Farm, has inspired thousands of people since 1998 to become self sufficient by taking care of the environment and themselves. We have promoted good health and gardening across Knox County through Green Thumb's Seed and Plant distribution and 20 community gardens since 1973.

**Beardsley Community Farm** has worked to increase access to fresh produce in Knoxville's food deserts through produce donations, educational programs, and community gardening. With the help of over 2,000 volunteers a year, Beardsley Farm grows and donates over 10,000 pounds of produce a year on about four acres of productive land.

**Green Thumb** maintains more than 20 community gardens for 150 gardeners across Knox County who do not have access to land. Gardens are located in a variety of places, from city parks to public housing communities. Green Thumb distributes free seeds and plants to 1,000 households in Knox County each spring.

**Terms:** Full-time; Living allowance of \$13,732 over the course a of a year of service; Must complete 1,700 total service hours. Includes health insurance and education award of \$5,920 at end of service year.

**Service Position Summary:** CAC Urban Agriculture seeks a motivated AmeriCorps member to serve between September 4' 2018 and July 26, 2019. Under the direction of the Farm Manager, Urban Agriculture Director and Assistant Urban Agriculture Director, this full-time service position will help tend to four acres of productive land and help maintain 20 community gardens in Knox County.

## **Responsibilities of this Position:**

- Maintain vegetable crops and fruit production at Beardsley Farm through planting, weeding, harvesting, irrigation, crop-rotation, maintaining and building soil health, and disease and pest management
- Help maintain 20 Green Thumb community gardens in Knox County through tilling, cover crops, mowing, and weed-eating
- Construct raised beds, picnic tables, and benches for Green Thumb community gardens
- Work with and direct individual volunteers and volunteer groups to maintain urban farm
- Tend to flock of hens daily
- Harvest honey and maintain health of bee-hives
- Help foster a safe, enjoyable place for community gardeners, volunteers, school groups, and the general public
- Maintain an attractive landscape through mowing, mulching, weeding, and weed-eating
- There may be additional duties depending on the needs of the CAC Urban Agriculture

**Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:**

- Able to work independently and collaboratively.
- Able to lead groups of volunteers with projects such as weeding, planting, invasive removal, and building
- Must enjoy and be capable of working outdoors in all weather conditions (sun, rain, heat, cold, etc.)
- Capable of working with people from diverse backgrounds
- Solid organization and leadership skills
- Commitment to honesty, excellence and professionalism
- Able to motivate others to change habits and behaviors
- Must provide own transportation
- Ability to multi-task in fast-paced environment with many weekly scheduled events such as community work-days, field trips, fundraisers for farm, workshops, etc.
- Enthusiasm for learning and engaging with new communities
- Ability to adapt in an ever-changing work environment

**Desired Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:**

- Paid or unpaid experience with environmental education and/or sustainable agriculture
- Strong interest in environmental education

**Service Conditions:**

During the growing season (February-early December) AmeriCorps members will primarily work outdoors in all weather conditions (sun, rain, heat, cold, etc.) Occasional evening/weekend hours may be necessary.

**Physical Demands:**

- Able to lift 50 pounds, able to team lift 100 pounds.
- Kneeling
- Pushing a loaded wheelbarrow up hill

*Farm equipment and power tools:*

- Lawn Mower, Tiller, Weed-eater, Drill, Circular saw, Skill saw, Tractor

*Garden Tools:*

- Mattocks, pitchforks, shovels, trimmers, loppers, hand mattocks, hoes, hoses

*All of the above functions may be completed with or without accommodations. This above description lists the minimum duty requirements. Individuals may be required to perform additional position duties as requested by their supervisor.*