

Summer '10 Internships

Jefferson Farm & Gardens, Columbia

Overview

The Jefferson Institute, a nonprofit agriculture education organization based in Columbia, has exciting full-time internships available for agriculture and horticulture students. We expect to hire three full-time interns for summer 2010. Interns will be based at Jefferson Farm & Gardens, a new multi-million dollar public education facility under development on the southeast edge of Columbia, Missouri (see www.jeffersonfarm.org).

Jefferson Farm & Gardens includes a number of demonstrations on agriculture and horticulture. Our scenic 67-acre farm includes grain fields, a new livestock barn and pasture, seven-acre lake, walking trails, fruit orchard, blueberries and grapes, vegetable garden, conservation demonstrations, a Missouri native tree grove, wildflower meadow and ornamental gardens.

Specific Responsibilities

Interns will be involved in a variety of projects at Jefferson Farm & Gardens. All interns will rotate through various tasks at the farm to gain a broad experience. However, we will also try to tailor internship responsibilities toward your interests and abilities. For example, if your primary interest is horticulture, you will spend more time working with our various gardens and horticultural demonstrations.

Interns will also have opportunities to assist with educational programs for school children and adults at the farm. During visitor days, interns will assist with a variety of visitor-related tasks along with helping maintain the farm. Responsibilities will include greeting visitors, leading tours and answering questions about different demonstrations.

Interns with a particular interest in youth education will have the opportunity to work with visiting youth and school groups, providing talks and leading programs.

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Qualifications

Intern candidates should be engaged in an agriculture or horticulture degree program, or have just completed a degree in May 2010. With three internships to fill, we are looking to have a mix of interns interested in plant science (agronomy or horticulture), animal science and agriculture education.

We will also consider students from other agriculture or biology degree programs. Preference will be given to students with some prior experience relevant to plant or animal production, but previous experience is not required. We are interested in intern candidates who can work well with others and who have a desire to help educate the public about agriculture, horticulture and natural resource management.

Intern candidates must be willing to work outdoors in a variety of weather conditions. During rainy periods, work will shift indoors (barn or machinery shed). Interns must be physically fit to handle a variety of tasks, some of which may be physically demanding, such as tree planting, weeding or helping with farm animals. An air-conditioned space at the farm is available for interns to eat lunch, as well as bathrooms, drinking fountains and a picnic pavilion.

Internship Dates and Payment

Start and end dates are negotiable for these internships, but we would like interns to begin full-time work on or about May 17, 2010. Preferably summer interns will work full-time through mid-August, with possibility of part-time work after that. It is hoped one or two interns can work part-time in April and early May, scheduled around class hours. Most work hours are expected to be Monday to Friday, but animal care and visitor programs will require some weekend hours. During the summer if work on a weekend is required, equivalent time off will be given during the week to keep the total hours at 40 hours a week. Weekend work is expected to be rotated among interns so that each person has most weekends off during the summer. Interns will be paid \$9.00 per hour on a biweekly basis.

We prefer students to work full-time during the summer, but in special circumstances may consider a part-time intern. Time off for family events, trips or other reasons will be granted if scheduled in advance.

To Apply

Applications will be accepted through **February 26**. To apply, email or mail a cover letter, resume and list of three references (name, email address and phone number) to **Catherine Bohnert** at the address below. Please note that emailed applications should have attachments in PDF format.

Email: cbohnert@jeffersoninstitute.org

Address:

Jefferson Institute
Attn: Summer Internship Program
4800 East New Haven Road
Columbia, MO 65201

Your cover letter should indicate your previous experience working with farm animals, field crops or horticultural work and any prior experience or training in agriculture education. Please also indicate your key interest areas (agricultural education, horticulture, crops and/or animal science).

Questions may be directed to Catherine Bohnert at cbohnert@jeffersoninstitute.org or phone 573-449-3518.