



Staff Farmer

Seasonal, Part-time, Hourly

The Talking Farm's mission is to provide education, example, and hands-on experience to members of the community to expand the awareness, importance, and availability of food grown sustainably. The Talking Farm operates the Howard Street Farm, a 2.5-acre urban farm in Skokie as well as offsite educational gardens and sells produce at its online market, local farmers markets and through its Garden Membership/weekly produce box program.

Job Description

Staff Farmers report to the Production Manager and assist in the cultivation, maintenance, harvest and operation of the Howard Street Farm by implementing the crop plan and facilitating the smooth operation of the farm. This position may be called upon to assist with The Talking Farm's offsite educational gardens and farmers' markets in the Skokie and Northern Chicago areas. This part-time, seasonal position requires approximately 15 hours/week seasonally. This seasonal position has flexible hours and starts in April/May and runs through the end of September/early October (some weekends may be required for markets and events).

Duties & responsibilities:

- Implement crop plan as directed by the Production Manager
- Responsible for seeding, planting, cultivating, weeding, watering, managing pests, harvesting, composting, washing, processing and packaging vegetable, fruit and herb crops, and/or winterizing the Howard Street Farm and off-site educational gardens
- Lead and/or assist with farmers markets (approx. 1 per month) and willing to be trained for such (farmers markets are on weekend mornings or Wednesday evenings)
- Help oversee, lead/or and train interns and volunteers
- Create a positive team environment for other staff, interns and volunteers around farm and garden activities
- Interact positively with members of the public and donors who visit and/or volunteer on the farm, and with off-site program partners
- Assist market staff with preparation for farmers markets and CSA distribution
- Responsible for daily and routine upkeep and maintenance of the farm and educational gardens, as well as equipment and facilities.
- Provide tours and media content
- Assist in set-up, execution and clean-up for and/or attendance at fundraising events
- Assist other staff and the board of directors as directed

Preferred Qualifications:

- A growing season's experience with gardening, urban farming or conventional farming a plus
- The ability to take direction, be flexible, learn new farming and growing techniques and communicate and explain farming practices clearly to others.
- A friendly and open disposition and a willingness to work in a team to help teach volunteers and interns about urban farming.



- Experience with point-of-sale systems such as Shopify and/or a willingness to train
- Physical requirements: Ability to lift up to 50 pounds; bend and crouch; walk on uneven surfaces, use hands and arms to pick/pull/grasp; see at close range, as well as at a distance; hear and speak to communicate with staff, volunteers, students and the public; and work outdoors in all types of weather.
- **Compensation:** Hourly \$18/hour paid bi-weekly. (5) days paid leave (may be taken as partial days). Free produce and discounts.

To apply: Please submit a resume and cover letter to jobs@thetalkingfarm.org.