

# Youth Farm Project Apprentices Program: FACT SHEET



*At the Youth Farm Project, young people are given the opportunity to develop a relationship with the food they eat and to consider how what they eat affects their health, community, and the planet. The Youth Farm Project, housed at the Marana Heritage Farm, hires Apprentices ages 15-20 to work on the farm, learn about food systems, contribute to the community, and of course have fun!*

## About the farm:

The Marana Heritage Farm, a 10-acre no-spray vegetable farm, is a project of The Community Food Bank's Community Food Resource Center (CFRC). Now in our third growing season, we are dedicated to producing fresh, organically grown food, while fulfilling the CFRC's vision of "improving community food security for the people of Pima County by promoting, demonstrating, advocating for and collaboratively building an equitable and regional food system, which supports food production and strengthens communities."

## Who will be hired for the program?

- Youth ages 15-20 who express interest in learning about farming and food systems.
- Youth who work well with others and demonstrate strong motivation and work ethic.

## What is the purpose of the program?

- To engage local youth in growing food for their community while addressing issues of nutritional poverty and hunger.
- To encourage nutrition and healthy food choices.
- To empower program participants to become voices and advocates within the food system.
- To introduce sustainable farming as a viable career option.
- To participate in daily farm activities and chores that support the Marana Heritage Farm.
- To bring together a diverse community of youth, to interact with the land in a positive way and to have fun!



Community Food Bank  
Youth Farm Project  
12375 Heritage Park Drive, Marana, AZ 85653  
520-873-7401



## As an Apprentice, what will I be doing?

- Apprentices will participate in all aspects of food production, including planting, harvesting, greenhouse cultivation, soil building, garden design, irrigation, marketing, and product distribution.
- Farm infrastructure projects, such as animal habitats, permanent shade structures, fencing, and building maintenance.
- Poultry production and care.
- Apprentices will participate in a cooking and nutrition class.
- All participants will be involved in the planning of a community-wide celebration at the end of the Apprentice session.

## How is the program structured?

### **Spring 2010 Program Dates: September 11th -December 18th**

**Breaks on October 9th and November 27th  
Apprentice graduation celebration on December 18th**

- Each youth Apprentice will be hired for a session of 15 weeks with a break after every four to six weeks, two weekends off in total.
- Youth are expected to work between 5 to 7 hours each Saturday throughout their session, depending on activities scheduled.  
\*Upon the acceptance of the Apprentice into the program, a detailed schedule of work hours and activities will be provided.
- Work begins at 8 a.m Saturday morning with the potential of moving to an earlier start time as temperatures increase.
- A stipend of \$200 will be paid upon the completion of the program.
- Youth will be responsible for their own food and snacks. Water will be provided, but youth need to bring their own water bottles.
- Youth will be evaluated by supervisors at the end of their session and will also have an opportunity to evaluate the program.
- Youth Apprentices will complete a survey and other paperwork to be used in documentation of the youth program.

***\*\*Currently all youth will be responsible for their own transportation to and from the farm on workdays. If this is an prohibitive factor please contact the program and arrangements will be considered.***



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## What if I have to miss a day of the program?

Program staff have designed a full spectrum program that encompasses many facets of sustainable agriculture throughout the 15 weeks. Therefore, the Apprentice **is expected to attend the full work day each week**, and although extenuating circumstances will be considered by program staff and make-up hours can be arranged, we ask that the importance of program participation be considered, and that the missing of days will detract from the Apprentice's learning experience. All work hours must be completed to receive the full stipend.

## What do our Apprentices say about the program?

"I've told everyone more than once that I'd live here forever and ever and always if I could!  
I absolutely positively love my job here!" Lauren, Age 17

"It's so much fun— I've really enjoyed myself, and I have learned much more about our food."  
Claudia, Age 16

"I have a profound respect for our food system and I believe every step closer we take to how and where our food is grown, the closer we become to health, equality, and happiness."  
—Robin, Age 17

"Working at the Youth Farm Project is so much fun! I look forward to going every Saturday and I will be sad when it ends."  
—Chris, Age 16

"I believe that now, more than ever, it is essential for local and organic agriculture to be practiced and passed on to many generations. I plan on pursuing a career in sustainable agriculture and the Youth Farm Project has been a great opportunity for knowledge and community involvement."  
—Clare, Age 19



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Send all application materials, including reference and parent/guardian consent to the following location:

Community Food Bank  
Attn: Youth Farm Project  
12375 Heritage Park Drive  
Marana, Arizona 85653

Information can also be faxed directly with coversheet:

Attn: Youth Farm Project  
Fax number: (520) 624-6349

Please contact us with any questions or concerns:

YFP Staff phone number: (520) 873-7401  
[youthfarmproject@communityfoodbank.org](mailto:youthfarmproject@communityfoodbank.org)



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