

## Position Available: Lynn Grower's Assistant

### Who We Are

Since our founding in 1991, The Food Project has grown into an internationally recognized non-profit organization that works at the intersection of youth, food, and community. For 28 years, youth and adults from diverse backgrounds have come together to produce healthy food for residents of the city and suburbs and build local, sustainable food systems. Each year, 120 youth work in crews with our staff to farm on 70 acres in eastern Massachusetts in Lincoln and Wenham and to partner with our neighbors in Lynn and Boston's Dudley neighborhood to create the food system they envision. Building a healthy food system means that land is well cared for, that food is grown and eaten locally, that food sales build and retain neighborhood wealth, and that all consumers have access to nourishing food for a healthy life.

### What We Seek

The Food Project is seeking a full-time Grower's Assistant to work on our Lynn urban farm for the 2020 season. The Grower's Assistant will partner with the Urban Agriculture Manager, youth, and community members in all aspects of production at our Lynn site, which includes a 1-acre urban farm, a 1,200 square foot greenhouse, and a new  $\frac{1}{4}$ -acre farm/community garden plot. The farm is intensively managed to produce 20,000 pounds of produce each year, and the Grower's Assistant will support distribution through our SNAP-accessible farmers' market, mobile markets, wholesale accounts, and donations to hunger relief organizations. This position is a mix of production and distribution work.

### Primary Responsibilities

#### Farm and Community Garden Work

- Work in partnership with the Urban Agriculture Manager to ensure efficient production at our Ingalls farm and at the new Lynn Tech site throughout the season, including bed preparation, planting, cultivation, harvest, and ongoing maintenance.
- Work in partnership with the Urban Agriculture Manager to build a new  $\frac{1}{4}$ -acre farm plot at Lynn Tech High School. The Grower's Assistant will play a key role in supervising groups of volunteers, youth, and TFP staff to work on this project, as we get the site ready for planting by June.
- Coordinate a community garden build at North Shore Community College, and serve as the primary maintenance person, liaison and support for our community gardeners there.

## Volunteer & Youth Engagement

- In the spring and fall, lead volunteer groups in farm work for one to two mornings each week, and work with individual volunteers for an additional one to two days per week.
- During July and August, partner with youth development staff to lead farm work one day per week with youth who are part of The Food Project's Seed Crew, an intensive 6-week summer job for teenagers.
- During July and August, partner with Root Crew, our more experienced crew of youth, to run market harvest, washup, and distribution twice a week.

## Markets and Distribution

- Manage the West Lynn and Curwin mobile market sites on Wednesdays throughout the summer, with support from Root Crew youth and staff.
- Support LHAND senior markets in the summer, and Central Square Market in the fall.
- Support weekly harvest and deliveries to our wholesale accounts.

## Additional Responsibilities

- Cover weekend greenhouse watering, on a schedule TBD with Urban Agriculture Manager (probably one weekend per month.)
- Work a Tuesday-Saturday schedule in the spring and fall, to be present for weekend youth programming and volunteer groups on the farm. Shift to a Monday-Friday schedule in the months of July and August.
- Attend weekly field walk and check-in with Urban Agriculture Manager on Fridays.
- Participate in regular staff meetings and trainings, and/or community meetings as necessary.
- Supervise student fellow(s) in the field during the summer months (TBD).

## Qualifications

This position is ideal for an individual who is interested in both sustainable agriculture and community engagement. It is well-suited for someone with at least one full season of experience working on a production farm, who is ready to take on a leadership role as part of an urban agriculture team. Our farms are run in partnership with youth and community members, therefore a candidate must have a passion for teaching and leading others, particularly young people.

Our youth and neighbors reflect the tremendous cultural, racial, and socio-economic diversity of the city of Lynn and surrounding neighborhoods. Candidates with experience working in diverse settings are strongly preferred.

- At least one full-time season of field experience on a production farm (preferred)
- Excellent interpersonal communication skills and energy for engaging with other people
- Dependable, responsible, flexible and open to learning
- Ability to work a flexible 40-hour schedule: Tuesday-Saturday in the spring and fall, Monday-Friday in July and August. Daily start and end times will be more varied in the summer.
- 21+ years of age with a valid driver's license and clean driving record (required for use of TFP vehicles)
- Enthusiasm for working with teenagers; prior experience teaching or leading youth in outdoor settings preferred.
- Experience leading groups safely and productively
- Experience working in multicultural community settings
- Team-oriented with a good sense of humor; able to work independently.
- Knowledge of the Lynn community is a plus. Bilingual in Spanish, Russian, or another language is also a plus.

## Schedule

This is a full-time, seasonal position from April 1– November 7th, 2020, with a fluctuating Tuesday through Saturday/ Monday through Friday work week. The Grower's Assistant has 4 paid holidays (Memorial Day, July 4<sup>th</sup>, Labor Day and Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day), which can be taken on the day of the holiday, or amassed in order to take a weeklong vacation over the course of the season.

## Compensation

The salary for this job is \$600 per week with employer-sponsored healthcare and vegetables from the farm.

## Recruitment Process

We will review all submissions, identify viable candidates and contact ONLY those individuals selected to continue in the search process. The position will be filled when the desired candidate is found.

Please send resume and cover letter via email to: [jobs@thefoodproject.org](mailto:jobs@thefoodproject.org). In the subject line, write your name and the position for which you are applying, eg: "Jordan Smith – Grower's Assistant- Lynn".

**The Food Project is an Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to creating an inclusive organization. We actively seek a diverse pool of candidates for this position.**