



## 2018 Farm Internship Program at Cloud Mountain Farm Center

### Cloud Mountain Farm Center Overview:

Mission: To build experience, knowledge, and community to expand dynamic local food systems.

Cloud Mountain Farm Center (CMFC) envisions a thriving, collaborative community in which regional agricultural businesses are prosperous and contribute to a healthy environment and the well-being of all citizens. CMFC aspires to be a trusted, proactive, and adaptable leader that works with partner educational and trade organizations within the regional food system to further our mission through a number of programs:

#### Community Education

Over 35 classes and workshops are offered to the public each year to increase knowledge around orchards, vineyards and vegetables in our local climate, plus two on farm festivals to increase community exposure to regional agriculture and relevant issues.

#### Internship

32 interns have successfully completed our 37 week curriculum-based internship over the past 5 years. The majority of intern graduates continue to work in agriculture and food systems.

#### Farm Incubator

CMFC's incubator program offers affordable access to land, equipment and infrastructure for local growing farm businesses.

#### Puget Sound Food Hub

CMFC is the North aggregate point for the Puget Sound Food Hub. The Food Hub is a farmer-owned cooperative marketing platform which enables access to regional wholesale markets for local growers.

#### Processing

CMFC's WSDA certified vegetable processing space allows local growers to access institutional markets and create value-added product.

#### Retail Nursery

With hundreds of native, ornamental, and fruit-bearing plants, we empower homeowners, landscapers, and small-scale growers to create, improve, and reimagine the ecosystems they manage.

#### Food Production

Creative orchard, vineyard and vegetable production give us the ability to pioneer new markets for local growers in Western Washington and model economically, environmentally and socially responsible food production.

### Crop Trials

CMFC explores innovative production trials on fruits, vegetables, and nursery crops that will provide additional market opportunities to market farmers that build knowledge and experience for ecologically-minded commercial production of specialty crops in Western Washington.

### **Internship Description:**

The Cloud Mountain Farm Center Intern Education Program is a rigorous integrated educational curriculum and work-based learning program. This program gives interns a hands-on, farm-based, full-immersion experience in agricultural production and management as well as a solid understanding of the big picture challenges that affect NW agriculture and the communities it serves by putting interns alongside permanent staff on a daily basis. Interns see first-hand what it takes to keep farmlands healthy and agricultural businesses thriving.

The three program goals are:

- Exposure— Field trips, readings and discussions will present a variety of agricultural models and challenges to provide a picture of various farming opportunities through:
  - o circumstance of resources
  - o land
  - o market
  - o community
  - o history of farming
  - o labor practices
  - o farming theories and philosophies
  
- Entrepreneurial Development—Interns will make connections between their interest in agriculture, and models and systems which might best fulfill their future goals through:
  - o business planning
  - o marketing
  - o value added products
  - o product development
  - o enterprise budgets
  - o sales
  
- Technical Development—Interns will come away with hard skills and the ability to evaluate economic opportunities. This will include production of perennial, annual, and

nursery systems, with some exposure to livestock/integrated systems. Some of the areas of focus are:

- soil science
- botany
- irrigation
- pest management
- food safety
- fertility management
- purchasing and maintenance of tools
- crop and rotation planning
- cover-cropping
- ecosystems management
- whole-farm planning

Depending upon interests and experience interns may participate in a number of possible internship tracks offered through CMFC:

**Onsite Internships:** these interns can expect to work up to 32 hours a week

- Food Production Internship  
Interns working on-farm at CMFC get a well-rounded work experience in vegetables, orchards, vineyards, nursery production, and sales and customer service.
- Nursery Production Internship  
Interns will gain experience primarily in plant propagation, field production, container production as well as customer service and sales, while still having the opportunity to work in orchards, vineyards, and vegetables when the season allows.

**Off-site Internships**

Interns interested in focusing on other agricultural enterprises that CMFC does not have including livestock production, herb production, or CSA may be connected with one of our partner farms. Further contact information will be given if this is requested.

**Internship Education Day participants**

For individuals interested only in the classroom and field curriculum part of the program. This would be 1 day a week for 8-9 hours of education. See Continuing Education Units Section for more information.

The intern program averages one day a week where all interns will participate in classroom education, hands-on workshops, and field trips to other farms in the region. The curriculum gives interns the opportunity to explore agriculture through exposure to:

- diverse agricultural systems
- business management
- skill development
- business planning

- marketing
- social and environmental stewardship
- development of technical skills related to soil science, botany, ecological pest management and resource management

### **Expectations**

The CMFC internship program extends from mid-February through October. All interns will participate in a weekly education day, generally meeting at CMFC. All interns are expected to attend the weekly educational day. Preparation for the education day may include supplemental readings and additional planned exercises or relevant explorations into a subject.

In addition to the education day, onsite interns will spend up to 32 hours/week as production staff and perform farm and/or nursery duties as the season dictates.

Onsite interns – CMFC interns will be expected to follow all guidelines set forth in the employee personnel policy. CMFC interns will be paid an hourly wage of \$11.50 and will have the option to take up to 5 unpaid vacation days throughout the internship duration.

Off-site Interns – Those interns placed at partner farms will also work as part of a farm crew, with hours and duties established by the partner farm. Wages and living arrangements will be determined solely by the participant and the partner farm.

### **Apply!**

Interested applicants should have some background knowledge of plant cultivation and ideally at least one year experience on a working farm. Cloud Mountain Farm Center is now accepting applications for 2018.

### **Program Dates:**

The 2018 Internship Program will begin in Mid-February 2018 and run through October 2018.

### **Tuition:**

Tuition for the 2018 internship is \$4,500. Tuition is due at the beginning of the program; however monthly payment schedules may be an option.

**Continuing Education Units (CEU):** The Cloud Mountain Internship program is an affiliated Cultivating Success Host Farm, which is a program of Washington State University's Food Systems. Through this affiliation, Cloud Mountain interns are eligible to receive WSU Continuing Education Units. Applicants that are unable to commit to the employment portion of the program, but are interested in participating in CMFC's full curriculum may still receive these credits. For more information about CEUs please email Jane at [jane@cloudmountainfarmcenter.org](mailto:jane@cloudmountainfarmcenter.org)

### **Scholarships:**

There are limited scholarships available which are based on need. Cloud Mountain Farm Center's goal is that finances should not be an obstacle to participation in these programs. Please inquire to get current information about what help is available.

**Please return a completed application to:**

**Cloud Mountain Farm Center 6906 Goodwin Rd Everson WA 98247**

**Or via email to [jane@cloudmountainfarmcenter.org](mailto:jane@cloudmountainfarmcenter.org)**

**A completed application must include:**

1. A completed application form
2. Your current resume: Education and work experience
4. A list of 3 references. At least two of them must be professional. Please include their name, address, email and phone number. Please do not ask them to send us a letter.

**Interviews:** Interviews for successful applicants will be scheduled as completed applications are received. While an on-farm tour and interview are preferred, applicants from out of the region may be interviewed on Skype.

**Visit:** Cloud Mountain Farm Center will be offering 2 farm tour/volunteer days for anyone interested in seeing the farm before applying to the 2018 Internship program. Please call to confirm tour/volunteer times or to set up another time if these dates are unavailable.

September 21<sup>th</sup> 9am-1pm

October 17<sup>st</sup> 9am-1pm

**Application Deadline:** Early applications close October 31st. The last round of applications are due by January 20, 2018, and positions may be filled as suitable applicants apply. Please note: If all positions are not filled after the application deadline, additional applicants will be considered.

**Notification and Deposit:** As applicants are interviewed, successful applications will be notified in writing that they have been accepted into the program. A \$400 non-refundable deposit will be required to reserve a place in the program.

**Housing:** There is some limited housing available at a subsidized rate. Please request more information if interested. If housing is desired, a lease must be signed by no later than December 31st of the current year.

Have Additional Questions? Please contact us at Cloud Mountain Farm Center, 360.966.5859 or [jane@cloudmountainfarmcenter.org](mailto:jane@cloudmountainfarmcenter.org)