

MAHWAH ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERS ORGANIZATION



MEVO

Creating environmentally
sustainable communities
one volunteer at a time.

1024 ASH DRIVE
MAHWAH, NJ 07430
TAX ID # 80-0713891
WWW.MEVOEARTH.ORG

2016 MEVO Summer Farm Crew Job Description

[MEVO \(Mahwah Environmental Volunteers Organization\)](#) is recruiting super awesome people for the 2016 Farm Crew. This internship is designed for someone who wants to be a leader in environmental sustainability, an activist throughout their local community, and make a difference in creating a better future. We are looking for people who are passionate, friendly, and independent thinkers who want hands on skills in organic farming, beekeeping, and to learn the principles of community based suburban agriculture. This crew builds on a four year legacy of sustainable food activism and education by empowering and training environmental leaders with a focus in engaging with our local and regional food system. It is a hands-on learning experience that shows you how to create, develop, and implement community farming on a local level, how to manage a not-for-profit farm and educational programs, and how to productively grow food in a variety of size plots from the garden to the market farm.

Work

This summer you and your fellow crew members will work throughout the Northern New Jersey area to run several large food sustainability projects:

1. Maintaining the MEVO Fresh Roots Farm, a two acre sustainable farm at Campgaw Mountain Reservation in Mahwah, New Jersey. This farm, whose construction was completed this past fall, is MEVO's biggest to date. Farm work will include: preparing seed beds, planting, harvesting and washing produce, managing compost piles, pruning, pest management, developing our sales process, and so much more. Our crew will manage everything from the day to day farm tasks to the community education programs and sale of produce.
2. Planting, maintaining, and harvesting all of MEVO's community gardens. This summer we will have over 1/2 an acre of community garden land maintained by our crew. This area will be dedicated to the cultivation of perennial plants (including flowers and medicinal & culinary herbs). Our crew will be in charge of harvesting and processing herbs and flowers to be sold at market or dried for use in making teas and other products.
3. Teaching sustainable agriculture. We will have multiple summer camps and schools visit our farms and we will visit their classrooms. Our crew will teach educational programs about organic farming, local food systems, the impact of conventional food systems, and Environmental values around food, beekeeping, and more.

Training

(May 22 – May 26 and May 31 – June 3) At the beginning of the MEVO summer there are two weeks of environmental training. This training covers topics such as: leadership, public speaking, networking, community organizing, environmental pollutants, environmental history,

environmental ethics, job opportunities in the Environmental field, event planning, sustainable farming, beekeeping, seedling growing, farm management practices, farm design, permaculture, volunteer management, and much more. The training is carried out by MEVO Staff and outside speakers from partner not-for-profit organizations.

Group Trips

You will also take several group overnight trips with your fellow crew members:

1. (June 15 – June 16) Two day camping trip to the Delaware Water Gap in New Jersey you will be doing trail work and trail building with your fellow crew members. Building hiking trails, rock climbing, hiking, and exploring beautiful forests in this area.
2. (July 8 – July 11) Four days of camping at Merck Forest and Farmland Center in Rupert, Vermont. Swimming in rock quarries, staying in cabins, making s'mores, volunteering in a maple syrup forest and organic farm, herding sheep, harvesting vegetables, and spending time with the MEVO crew.
3. (August 1 – August 4) Four days at the Ananda Ashram in Monroe, New York learning about sustainable farming, eastern philosophy, alternative food systems and lifestyles, spirituality, meditation, yoga and personal health

Farm Crew Details

Title: Crew Member

Start Date: May 22nd 2016

End Date: August 15th 2016

Pay: Unpaid

Days for the Internship: Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday

Responsibilities

1. **Physical volunteering and getting dirty:** MEVO's volunteer work is tiring and you need to be in good physical shape and willing to work hard. You will spend A LOT of your summer outdoors on the farm in the heat and mud!
2. **Emailing, phone calling, and meeting:** Making a difference today requires you to use technology! You will get experience e-mailing, phone calling, and meeting with public officials from many communities. Be ready for indoor office work!
3. **Public speaking and making decisions:** We want you to end your internship with the ability to be a leader and get people involved. This means that you will speak in front of groups of people of all ages and be asked to make difficult decisions, at times with little guidance.
4. **Teaching:** Every Farm Crew member will work with school groups, disabled adult groups, and more to teach about sustainability and growing food. You have to be willing to teach, develop curriculum, and have patience with your students. You also need to be energized!

Requirements

1. **Mode of transportation:** We operate throughout North New Jersey, which means during the internship we will travel throughout this greater area. You need a way to get to our meet up location in Mahwah, NJ. We carpool most days so you will likely either be driving the carpool or carpooling in someone else's ride.
2. **Attendance:** You are required to be at every day of our internship. We allow for one work week of vacation (including sick days).
3. **Working Laptop:** Our office work requires that you have a working laptop that you can bring to do office work. We have electricity and internet access.
4. **The Three Trips:** There will be three trips over the summer and it is mandatory that you attend them. They are some of the most-awesome experiences of the summer.
5. **Training:** You must be able to attend all days of training.

A little bit about MEVO

MEVO is an environmental not-for-profit organization based in Northern New Jersey. We are lead entirely by youth: college and graduate students as well as young spirited adults. MEVO works throughout the region on a variety of volunteer-led projects ranging from trash clean-ups and tree plantings to building organic farms and teaching people about local beekeeping. Since MEVO's founding in June 2008 the organization has mobilized and engaged over 5,000 volunteers contributing over 40,000 hours of volunteer work to Northern New Jersey and lower New York state communities. MEVO is well known for its work in partnership with the Ramapough Lunaape Nation with whom they have collectively lead clean-up efforts for the removal of massive amounts of pollution and trash. This trash has been and continues to be illegally dumped in the forests surrounding the homes of the residents living in the Stag Hill community in Mahwah, New Jersey. In addition, MEVO builds and manages sustainable farms which provide educational programs on the importance of clean, healthy, and sustainably grown food. For all of this work MEVO were declared a 2014 New Jersey Hero and received the 2014 National Jefferson Award for Public Service as well as many other honors.

How to apply

To apply, fill out the online application process on this website, or contact Eric J. Fuchs-Stengel by e-mail at ericjfs@mevoearth.org or cell phone 201-316-4888. You should send your resume and cover letter. Phone calls are totally fine if you want to introduce yourself before submitting your information or if you want to ask questions!