Terp Farm Student Staff Position Announcement

The University of Maryland Department of Dining Services is excited to announce available student staff positions to support the Terp Farm for the 2021 growing season!

Terp Farm is a four-season sustainable vegetable and cut flower farm located 15 miles from campus at the University’s Central Maryland Research and Education Center, Upper Marlboro Facility. Established in 2014 as collaboration between the Department of Dining Services and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the farm provides fresh produce to the campus dining halls and food-insecure members of the campus community through donations to the UMD Campus Pantry. Additionally, the farm has served as a “living laboratory” for students of the University to engage in practical farming applications and learn skills and concepts that are imperative to running a successful farming operation.

The Terp Farm team is seeking student staff members for employment on the farm for the 2021 season. The position runs from April through November. Wages start at $12/hr. The Terp Farm Manager will provide support to the Terp Farm Student Staff by incorporating education and mentorship throughout the workday, as well as opportunities for field trips and workshops based upon student staff interest.

Application deadline is February 28, 2021

Interviews will be conducted virtually during the second week of March

Eligibility: Successful candidates should consider themselves to be hard-working, self-motivated, detail oriented, and able to demonstrate good communication skills under pressure. It is very important to be willing to receive direction and have a strong work ethic in order to work on a farm.

While having previous farming experience or outdoor jobs is generally preferred, it is not required. However it is essential that candidates are committed to vegetable farming and all that it requires, including being able to lift 50 lbs regularly, and work outside in all weather conditions from rainy days to high summer heat. Preference will be given to those candidates that have at least 3 months of previous farming experience.

A valid Maryland driver’s license is required, as well as your own means for commuting to and from the farm.

Updated January, 2021
The Terp Farm Student Staff will support the Terp Farm Manager in the following aspects of farm operations, including:

- **Production**
  - Field operations for vegetable and cut flower production, including cultivation and tillage, bed preparation, planting, fertilizing, pest and disease control, irrigation, mulching, trellising, and weeding.
  - High tunnel operations including hand-scale bed preparation, planting, trellising, pest and disease control, irrigation, weeding, and maintenance of structures.
  - Greenhouse operations including soil mix preparations, seeding, thinning, environmental monitoring, pest and disease control, and sanitation.
  - Post-harvest operations including washing and packing, sanitation, pest monitoring, record-keeping, and worker hygiene.

- **Infrastructure**
  - Light construction and site development projects such as building greenhouse benches and spreading mulch and gravel.
  - Basic maintenance of tools and equipment including cleaning and sharpening, checking fluid levels, and following proper storage procedures.

- **Recordkeeping**
  - Daily note-taking and assistance in maintaining farm log books for food safety and production records.

- **Promotion and Marketing**
  - Public relations such as working the Farmer’s Market, special events, and assistance with outreach and brand representation using social media platforms.

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**Physical Demands/Work Environment:**

- Occasional work must be performed outside of normal scheduled hours due to weather and other factors.
- Hazardous materials - petroleum based fluids, exhaust, pesticides, and sanitation chemicals.
- Wear and work in Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)
- Working environment may have allergens—dust, mold, grasses, etc.
- Severe weather conditions, such as extreme hi/lo temperatures, strong wind, and rain.
- Heavy lifting - 40 to 50 lbs

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**Work Schedule:** *Initial start date TBD, but will be after Spring Break*

- **April - May** -  Mandatory 6 hour Saturday workday + optional 4 hr midweek shift
- **June - Aug** -  Mandatory 40 hour work week, Tuesday through Saturday
- **Sept - Nov** -  Mandatory 6 hour Saturday workday + optional 4 hr midweek shift

*Updated January, 2021*
To Apply: Send an updated resume and cover letter describing your interest in the position to terpfarm@umd.edu. Include “Terp Farm Student Staff Application” in the subject line.

In your cover letter please provide responses to the following:

- Describe your qualifications for the position.
- Explain what outcomes you hope to gain from this experience.
- Tell us why you want to be a part of the Terp Farm Team.