

2016 NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

AGENCY NAME

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

DIVISION

Wyckoff Farmhouse

ADDRESS1 Wyckoff Farmhouse

ADDRESS2 Brooklyn, NY

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AGENCY DESCRIPTION (Max characters 3000)

The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation manages 14 percent of the land in New York City. These assets range from playgrounds and large parks, to tranquil wooded areas and miles of beaches. Parks serve as New Yorkers' backyards, as meeting areas for outdoor play and recreation - but also as critical engines for economic growth and development.

NYC Parks' mission is to plan resilient and sustainable parks, public spaces, and recreational amenities, build a park system for present and future generations, and care for parks and public spaces to benefit New Yorkers across the five boroughs.

Through an effort to improve the quality, accessibility, efficiency and sustainability of our city parks by increasing investment in underserved neighborhoods and expanding parkland: NYC Parks' **Community Parks Initiative**, at the center of the Mayor's plan, is completely redesigning and reconstructing parks in neighborhoods across the city with the greatest needs --35 of which are nearing the construction phase.

NYC Parks is also leading in innovative park design with **Parks Without Borders**, a new design approach that focuses on improving park entrances, edges, and spaces adjacent to parks. By extending parks into communities, Parks Without Borders will improve New Yorkers' access to quality parks.

Ongoing work to care for our parks has:

- Reconnected the City's two most northern boroughs, Manhattan and The Bronx, when NYC Parks' historic High Bridge was reopened.
- Re-energized Flushing Meadow Corona Park in Queens, one of New York's largest parks, drawing visitors from around the globe.
- Reinforced our commitment to growing greenspaces by meeting our goal to plant 1,000,000 trees.

The work of the agency goes far beyond the maintenance of New York City's nearly 30,000 acres. Parks is the City's leading programmer of cultural, athletic and social activities, including nature walks, concerts, learn-to-swim classes, sports clinics, historic house tours, and much more. Each year Parks hosts annual events such as WinterJam, Adventures NYC, and the Fall Field Day.

The Parks Commissioner is appointed by the Mayor to oversee and direct the work of the agency. The Commissioner appoints Deputy Commissioners, Borough Commissioners, and Assistant Commissioners who are responsible for managing the agency's divisions. These senior officials supervise the work of thousands of Parks employees. They work with elected officials to complete capital improvements for parks, playgrounds, and recreation centers. They work with the private sector to sponsor free public events. They get the community involved in Parks through volunteer initiatives and educational and athletic programming in recreation and nature centers. They prepare Parks' budget and monitor the work of Parks' ice-skating skating rinks, golf courses and other concessions.

UNIT DESCRIPTION (Max characters 1000)

The Wyckoff Farmhouse (Wyckoff House Museum) is New York City's oldest house, dating back to c. 1652. This remarkable historic structure sits on the 1.25 acre Fidler-Wyckoff park, a New York City Parks site. Designated as the city's first landmark and a National historic landmark, the museum welcomes thousands of visitors each year for school field trips, family days, garden workshops, tours, and community events.

POSITION TITLE (Max characters 100)

Wyckoff Farmhouse Garden Apprentice Intern

INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES (Max characters 1500)

The Garden Apprentice Program (GAP) provides first-hand experience cultivating organic vegetables, herbs, flowers, and perennials on our

1.25 acre site. The garden includes 16 raised beds for seasonal vegetables and medicinal herbs, as well as fruit and nut trees, wildflowers, roses, and native plants. You will learn alongside a qualified gardener/urban farmer, fellow apprentices, and community volunteers of all ages. Responsibilities include: soil cultivation, weeding, pruning, watering, mulching, composting, cover cropping, harvesting, managing farm tools, engaging with community volunteer and on-site visitors, leading open-garden volunteer days. Apprentices will be expected to do occasional "homework" including background reading about gardening and to participate in off-site training and educational opportunities at other gardens and farms around NYC. Preference given to candidates who can commit to the natural growing season: May-November.

Key Apprentice Activities -

- Assisting farmer with responsibilities listed above
- Engaging community volunteers in basic garden tasks and interacting with on-site visitors
- Contributing to garden blog with photos and weekly lessons from the field
- Hosting open-community volunteer days during your garden shifts
- Manage & organize garden tools for volunteers
- Assisting with Special garden events including: pop-up Farmers Market and Community Seed Swap

QUALIFICATIONS/SPECIAL SKILLS/AREA OF STUDY (Max characters 1500)

- You love plants, animals, and people and are eager to learn about how to grow food, herbs, flowers; you are interested in regenerative agriculture, urban sustainability, holistic wellness, farming
- You love to talk about plants/gardening/farming/local food/holistic wellness with your local community and anyone who asks
- You are self-directed and able to complete projects independently and without supervision
- You have a sense of humor and love to learn and share knowledge
- You have experience/interest in community organizing and leadership or education, especially with children and teens
- You want a job outside, are comfortable with physical manual labor, and have physical ability to lift up to 40-lbs
- You have High School Diploma or equivalent

APPLICATION PROCESS (Max characters 700)

Please email cover letter and resume to Leslie.Nusblatt@parks.nyc.gov

SALARY RANGE

Unpaid

Internship may be used to fulfill college credit requirement

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION / COMMENTS (Max characters 700)

Flexible hours. Minimum commitment of 10 weeks at 2 days/week between May and August. Some Saturday availability required. Preference given to candidates who can work through November 2016.

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