



Finca Tres Robles Farm Apprentice

Job Description:

Small Places is a 501c3 that develops farms to upend systemic inequalities at the neighborhood level. Our farms are designed to prioritize and become a part of the fabric of the communities they exist in, providing convenient, affordable access to high quality foods and a safe and welcoming space for our neighbors.

Our first farm, Finca Tres Robles (Spanish for “3 Oaks Farm”), located just 3 miles east of downtown in the historic 2nd Ward is one of the only urban farms in Houston’s urban core and grows seasonal fruits, vegetables and herbs on 1.5 acres. Using intensive growing methods and following organic practices, our farm is one of the only sources of sustainable, fresh, and local produce on Houston’s East Side. As a community-driven farm uniquely striving to keep 100% of our produce within 3 miles of the farm, we have developed community outlets and relationships distributing our produce through a 10-month CSA, an onsite grocery store, and subsidized distributions directly to community partners and neighbors. As a community space, we also host regular community events and educational opportunities such as field trips and classes.

Having recently signed a historic 40-year lease on 1.5 acres in partnership with Harris County, our new community farm will be opening up in early 2025.

Our (3) Farm Apprentices will perform the day to day operations of our high intensity organic vegetable farm. This entry level position offers the opportunity to develop skills in year round, organic vegetable farming in a subtropical climate, including agricultural tasks, running non-profit programing such as education and community events, and selling fresh produce through our on-farm store. The ideal candidate has a keen interest in pursuing a career in farming and a willingness to work hard.

Working in a primarily working-class Latinx community we strive to represent, include and prioritize our immediate neighborhood. We strive to be an anti-racist organization and work to leverage our farm to pursue equity and food justice to our best ability.

Responsibilities:

- Follow established procedures with written and/or verbal instructions to perform tasks under direct supervision, such as planting seeds, harvesting vegetables, washing and weighing produce, & watering plants
- Perform outdoor, physical labor in all weather conditions, such as moving and spreading mulch or soil, carrying cartons of harvested produce, and digging with a shovel
- Work with and around food and food handling areas in a sanitary and hygienic manner.
- Operate mechanical and motorized tools and equipment such as walk behind tractor, mower, and string trimmer
- Protect crops with active pest management strategies such as organic sprays, insect netting and by hand (killing bugs)
- Travel to other farms for off-site “externship” assignment (~12 days per year)
- Occasional (~1x / month) weekend duties (watering greenhouse plants)

Commitment:

40 hours a week
5 days per week with occasional weekend responsibilities

Requirements:

Desire to pursue career as professional farmer
Committed to personal growth and accountability
Willingness to work outdoors in Houston’s weather and ability to lift 50 lbs +
Understand and follow written and verbal instructions in English
Ability to correctly determine ripeness of produce during harvest by color, texture and odor/aroma
Must be willing to kill bugs

Compensation:

\$18/hr (paid bi-weekly)
Other benefits include: Farm Produce; \$400 monthly/health savings account; 3 weeks PTO; Potential for growth opportunities in the organization as we grow;

To Apply:

Apply online at: <https://smallplaces.org/careers/>

Or please e-mail a resume, brief description of yourself, and what you would like to accomplish personally as a member of the farm to: **gmast@smallplaces.org**

Small Places

www.smallplaces.org

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