

Farm Apprenticeship (full-time)

About Us

Small Places is a 501c3 that develops farms to upend systemic inequalities in health at the neighborhood level. Our farms are a part of the fabric of the communities we 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 9-month CSA, an onsite farm 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.

Our **Farm Apprenticeship(s)** will perform the day-to-day operations of our high intensity organic vegetable farm. This entry level position offers the opportunity for someone interested in a career in agriculture to get firsthand and on the job experience to explore the career. Also, they get an externship opportunity at an area farm to get exposed to other working farm operations in the Houston area.

To read more about our mission and our work, please visit smallplaces.org

Job Description

Small Places is seeking a dynamic and motivated individual to step into being an integral part of our urban farm team at *Finca Tres Robles*. Their tasks will include developing skills in year-round, organic vegetable farming in a subtropical climate, including agricultural tasks, running non-profit programming such as education and community events, and distributing fresh produce through our on-farm store and CSA. Our Apprentices play a pivotal role in ensuring the success and sustainability of our farm producing the highest quality food for our neighbors and community. Beyond learning the tools and tasks around running a production farm, our apprentices touch all aspects of the farm so they are exposed to the multi-layered work involved in farming. The Apprentices will work closely with the Farm Manager and other farm apprentices to oversee the continued growth of our farm.

Responsibilities

As Apprentice, your responsibilities will include but not limited to:

- 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 crates 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 (~10 days per year)
- Occasional (~1x / month) weekend duties (including watering greenhouse plants, leading farm tours and volunteer days)

Qualifications and Experience:

- 1-2 years of experience growing vegetables/ working outdoors (prioritized and not required)
- Interest in pursuing a career in agriculture
- 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
- Passionate about food access and community development.
- Able to self-direct and carry out tasks independently.
- Systems + process-oriented with experience implementing SOP’s, checklists, and accountability measures.
- Bilingual (English-Spanish) (prioritized and not required).

Schedule and Pay:

- \$18/hr (salaried, paid bi-weekly)
- Health Reimbursement Account (\$400), 3 Weeks PTO, fresh produce

The statements contained in this job description are not necessarily all-inclusive; additional duties may be assigned and requirements may vary from time to time.

To apply, please send resume and cover letter to nhakim@smallplaces.org with “Finca Tres Robles Apprenticeship” as the subject.