

# Seattle Tilth Farm Works Farm Steward Internship



## Internship Description:

STFW interns are involved in all aspects of the farm and work closely with program staff. As much as possible, Seattle Tilth seeks to create a participatory environment driven by learning-by-doing models. Interns learn about and participate in greenhouse management, field cultivation, irrigation systems, pest control, harvesting, post-harvest handling, distribution, and animal care.

## Responsibilities and tasks:

- **Field work:** includes seeding, transplanting, weeding, irrigating, and harvesting
- **Greenhouse:** seeding, weeding, transplanting, and watering
- **Wash Station:** washing, sorting, packing, and labeling harvested crops
- **Tractor work:** bed preparation and mowing
- **Distribution:** delivering produce to food hub, packing and distributing CSA shares, and participating at farmers' markets
- **Animal care:** feeding, watering, fence maintenance, and pasture maintenance

Working on the farm requires the physical capability to contribute daily in a rigorous, fast-paced agricultural setting. Farm work offers an incredibly rewarding and demanding work environment and life experience. Interns should expect to work outside in all weather conditions including rain, winter cold and summer heat.

## Independent Project:

While much of the internship will be focused on hands-on learning, interns also pursue an independent project that provides the intern with the opportunity to explore a topic of interest while gaining project management experience. Past projects have included the creation of a wetlands buffer and the planning and planting of a new orchard. STFW staff will provide support and direction for educational aspirations.

## Desired Qualifications

Seattle Tilth seeks applicants who:

- are enthusiastic about agriculture and have a vision for themselves within the Seattle Tilth Farm Works community
- are reliable, responsible, self-motivated, flexible, and hard working
- have the ability to work independently, be self-directed, and work well as a member of a team
- have excellent communication skills
- are willing to work with an interpreter at times
- are able to work daily with hands, wrists and back, and to lift 50 pounds regularly
- have basic computer skills

## Time Commitment:

Interns will devote approximately 32 hours per week to the farm for a full season from February to November. During the first half of the season, from February to June, two days per week will be dedicated to participating in the Education Program and focusing on independent projects. The second half of the year, from June to November, will be much more focused on field production and harvest coordination.

## Compensation and Benefits:

- Interns will receive a stipend of \$200/month to offset living costs.
- Interns will have access to free, shared, onsite housing that is furnished and includes kitchen and laundry facilities and free wifi.
- Interns eat well from harvest surpluses.
- Interns will participate in the Organic Farm Education Program alongside program participants
- Interns can gain up to 6 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) through Washington State University.
- Interns may receive school credit if their institution allows.

STFW interns gain valuable farming skills and are given an opportunity to experience the inner-workings of a non-profit with over 30 years of success. Interns will actively contribute to organic farming, local food systems, the environment, and social justice, while working with a team to accomplish common goals.

**Farm & Work Site:**

Seattle Tilth Farm Works  
17601 Southeast Lake Moneysmith Road  
Auburn, WA 98092

**Application Process**

Please email a cover letter and resume to Alex Kazer at [alexkazer@seattletilth.org](mailto:alexkazer@seattletilth.org). Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. Please submit your application as soon as possible for consideration.

**Questions**

Email [alexkazer@seattletilth.org](mailto:alexkazer@seattletilth.org) for more information.

**About Seattle Tilth Farm Works**

Seattle Tilth Farm Works (STFW) provides educational and business opportunities for aspiring farmers in the Puget Sound region. Seattle Tilth's mission is to inspire and educate people to grow food organically, conserve natural resources and support local food systems in order to cultivate a healthy environment and community. STFW helps achieve this mission by providing opportunities for aspiring farmers to gain hands-on experience growing and harvesting food using organic practices and to sell their crops through local networks.

In addition to the STFW Education Program, a program that provides classroom instruction, hands-on field based training and mentoring to aspiring, limited-resource farmers, STFW also operates a small-scale production farm. The purpose of the production farm is threefold: to demonstrate organic production methods to Education Program participants, to create and maintain market channels that benefit STFW participants, and to provide a sustainable source of income for the program itself.

The STFW farm is located 4 miles east of the Green River, in Auburn, Washington. We grow approximately 40 different varieties of vegetables on approximately 9 acres. In addition to raising laying hens and managing several beehives, we plan to expand our livestock and perennial systems on additional acreage this year. All of the crops we grow will be distributed locally through the Seattle Tilth Food Hub, CSA, farmers markets, food banks, and some Seattle restaurants.

**About Seattle Tilth**

Seattle Tilth is a nationally recognized non-profit educational organization dedicated to inspiring and educating people to garden organically and conserve natural resources, and support local food systems in order to cultivate a healthy urban environment and community. Our programs include community learning gardens, our volunteer program, classes and workshops, events, a children's garden program, the Master Composter program, the Garden Hotline, Seattle Youth Garden Works, and the Farm Incubator Program.

**Thank you for your interest in being a Seattle Tilth intern!**