

2018 Summer Intern Education Program

We hope that everything you do on The Farm this summer will be educational for you. In addition to your “learning-while-doing,” we have developed an education program for more directed learning and reflection about specific topics. Details and a schedule follow.

Goals

At the end of the summer, interns will...

- Have basic knowledge about major content areas related to hospital-based farming
- Be skilled out-of-classroom teachers and public engagers
- Be able to develop, write, make, and serve healthy and accessible recipes to the public
- Be able to nurture a plant from seed to food using organic practices
- Appreciate the importance of mindful observation of the natural world
- Recognize connections between sustainable agriculture and human nutrition
- Understand the ways in which human health depends on social and economic factors
- Be aware of creative efforts to improve nutrition in Washtenaw County
- Cultivate relationships with members of The Farm community

Assignments

- 1. Observation and reflection journals:** Choose one plant (i.e., individual plant, not general crop) growing on the farm. Record your observations and learnings about this plant in a journal at least one time weekly. These may include, for example, drawings, questions that arise, surprises, notes on horticultural actions, flavor or recipe notes, and nutrition findings. If your plant is pulled out, continue your reflection journal with whatever plant takes its place. Use this same journal to reflect on your summer experience, trying to include a reflection most days. Reflections do not have to be long!
- 2. Poster session:** The Farm community wants to learn about all of your wonderful work! We will have a poster session and Farm open house in mid-August. Please create a poster (or other engaging teaching tool) to share the products of your work and how your work has impacted you.

Assessment

We are not interested in giving grades or rigorously evaluating your knowledge and skills. We are, however, interested in creating structures that enhance learning and assessing the effectiveness of our program at helping you develop personally and professionally. For this reason, we have 1) created the above assignments and 2) developed intern feedback forms that we will distribute at two points during the summer. Regarding your assignments, we will ask you to share your plant observations each week, and we will collect your reflection journals toward the end of the summer. (We will return them to you!) Also, we will provide constructive feedback as you develop your poster (or poster alternative) and after we have seen the finished product.

Schedule

Date <small>(all sessions are Thursdays, 1-3pm, unless otherwise indicated)</small>	Topic	Leader
May 24	Introduction Sense of place: natural areas at St. Joe's	Lauren Harrison
May 31	Best practices for public engagement	Laura
June 7	Basic botany Plant classification	Lauren
June 14	Year-round horticulture in Michigan Sustainable pest management	Lauren
June 21	Recipe development and writing Food preparation and service	Jaz and Amanda
June 28	Human nutrition basics Nutrition highlights of Farm produce	Lea
July 5	Cushion	
July 12	Food (in)security Social determinants of health	Amanda
July 19	We The People Growers Association - field trip	Melvin Parson
July 26	Green Things Farm - animals! - field trip	Jill and Nate Lada
August 2	Lisa McDowell - nutrition at St. Joe's	Lisa McDowell
August 9	Collect reflection journals Poster session prep time	Lauren
August 15, 3-7pm	Intern poster session and Farm open house	all
August 16	Summer wrap up Return reflection journals	Amanda, Laura, and Lauren