

MVC SHORT-TERM PLACEMENT POSITION DESCRIPTION

SERVICE SITE: Mercy Ecospirituality Center
POSITION TITLE : Care of Creation Summer Volunteer

Site Description:

Mercy Ecospirituality Center (formerly known as Mercy Farm and part of Mercy Ecology) is located in Benson, VT. A sponsored ministry of the Sisters of Mercy, the mission is to inspire reverence for Earth and to work toward the sustainability of life by acting in harmony with all creation. The house offers a beautiful space for individual and group retreat, programs and workshops. Located in the beauty of Vermont's Green Mountains, the 39 acres of wooded land, raised bed gardens and animals are ideal for connecting with nature.

Website: <http://mercyecology.org/>

Primary Volunteer Duties:

- Care of the land; tending to vegetable/flower gardens, barn chores, maintenance of woodland paths.
- Care of animals; sheep, chickens, barn cat and assistance with beekeeping.
- Partner with a local vegetable farm in planting and harvesting of crops for the farmer's market.
- Hospitality and welcoming of retreatants and visitors.
- Assist in housekeeping and meal preparation while groups are present.
- Assist in hosting activities for Mercy Ecology Programs.

Qualifications:

Interest in gardening/farming, the environment/sustainability, hospitality in welcoming groups and building relationships, experience working in group settings, does not mind physical labor and can work effectively in an environment with exposure to dust, dirt and pollen. Interest in living in an intentional community and sharing in meal preparation and times of spiritual reflection. Open to learn! Volunteers must have medical insurance coverage for the entire term of service.

Work Schedule:

Program dates are May 28 – July 9, 2022. Schedule varies during this time depending on groups visiting the center as well as weather related issues so flexibility is necessary. Work schedule is 5 days/week, if working weekends appropriate time off during the week is given. Days often begin early (about 7:30) before the heat of the day.

Environment and Attire:

Volunteers must be comfortable working in a primarily outdoor environment and should dress appropriately for working outside, this includes adequate shoe, bug and sun protection. Must be able to lift and carry 25lbs, work on the ground and have good physical stamina.

Living Space: Volunteers live together on site. Bedrooms are individual with shared common living areas.

Benefits:

- Room and board provided, along with a living stipend of \$300.
- Transportation costs to and from the service site covered up to \$400.
- Learned practical experience in farm duties.
- Opportunity to connect with others passionate about the environment and care of creation.
- Participation in community life and shared reflection on ecospirituality.