

Sunbury Urban Farm: Farm and Forest School Facilitator

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Background

This fall I am currently interning with Sunbury Urban Farm as a Farm and Forest School Facilitator. Sunbury Urban Farm is located in the Northeastern part of Columbus, Ohio. Sunbury Urban Farms mission statement is “Come Grow With Us”. This means to grow as a learner, to gain more knowledge on the environment and agriculture, to challenge yourself and to “grow” everyday skills such as cooking, social skills and more. I originally found this job through a friend but more specifically I was offered the Farm and Forest School Facilitator position after working for Sunbury Urban Farm over the summer as a summer camp counselor.

Figure 1



My camper group and I celebrating another week of educational camp with homemade popsicles with fruit from that was frozen from our farm!

On the Job

Frequent activities that occur while on the job include fire building, garden activities, harvesting produce, composting, foraging and most importantly, environmental education. While teaching the children at Farm and Forest School, I have also learned a lot. The children have taught me new things such as different species of bugs and animals and gave me a different understanding of what it means to love and to care for the environment.

Figure 2



A camper and I after a lesson of archery shooting at the farm, they were taught safety and how to properly use a bow and arrow

Figure 3



Harvesting of peppers that were planted over the summer term by our very own campers

Figure 4



Planting of bok choy in our high tunnel at the farm, we spent the day planting our cold weather plants

Figure 5



Foraging for tea! We foraged mint leaves, clover, wild berries and raspberry leave from the farm

Reflection

Although I do not want to go into education, I do want to go into a career that supports pro-environmental behavior such as environmental compliance or environmental consulting. This internship is related to my future career by giving me a better understanding of the environment and has given me a better understanding on how to address environmental topics in a way that all ages can understand and be able to change their attitudes to better improve the environment around them. As mentioned, I hope to find a job in environmental compliance or environmental consulting so my next steps forward will be searching for jobs.