



Growing Kids Program - Volunteer Internship Application

Looking for work experience in the environment or education sectors?
Interested in outdoor classroom learning?
Believe that education has the power to create social and environmental change?
Apply now for EYA's Growing Kids Volunteer Internship Program for Fall 2011!

As a volunteer intern you will:

- Work regularly with an elementary or high school to help teachers and students develop and maintain their school garden and/or school garden club
- Assist in facilitating workshops and lessons on topics such as: seed saving, winter garden preparation, soil ecology, composting, plants as medicine, native plants and wildlife, and food security.
- Help coordinate student-driven garden projects
- Become a role model for youth in environmental stewardship; teaching about the social, political, economic and ecological implications of what we eat and how we live.
- Support teachers in better utilizing their school yard as a learning grounds

Commitment includes:

- Attending a weekly or biweekly session with one of our partner schools from September to December. (Approx 4-6 hrs per week)
- Participating in a 2-hour Orientation on September 6th AND a 2-hr Training Session on September 8th (evenings – times to be announced)
- Keeping regular contact with Program Coordinators

Upon Completion of your Internship, you will:

- Have a variety of hands-on skills related to urban agriculture
- Be confident delivering presentations and workshops on environmental issues to youth
- Meet great people and make connections in Vancouver's urban agriculture network
- Receive a reference letter supporting your work in the program

Interested? Please send a resume and covering letter indicating why you are interested in the position and detailing your experience working with youth and/or growing food, to Co- Coordinators Alaina Thebault, alaina@eya.ca AND Matthew Kemshaw matthewk@eya.ca

Apply by: Sunday, August 28th, 2011. We thank all applicants, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Interviews will be scheduled throughout the day and evening on Thursday, September 1, 2011.



Why Growing Kids?

Imagine a school where students are encouraged to actively engage in their communities. Traditional subject areas are taught not just within the 4 walls of the classroom, but are imbedded within the ecological, social, cultural and economic realities of the community. Students are encouraged to apply their learnings to real world problems to develop critical, forward thinking solutions. Sustainability is not an isolated unit within a few course curricula, but is instead a lived concept that permeates the entire institution of education. Imagine education as a network or web, wherein individuals, ecologies, cultures, and societies all participate in the education of every individual.

Food gardens and green spaces on school grounds provide powerful lessons about natural and human created systems. Healthy garden ecologies support an understanding of reciprocity, stewardship, balance and harmony. Outdoor learning grounds provide students with opportunities to apply what they learn in the classroom to the realities that shape their community. The circular journey a school grown salad takes from seed, to food, to soil serves as a metaphor for another way of knowing the world, one that is based upon ecological cycles rather than linear throughputs.



Helping youth discover their “Inner Nature”



A growing body of work indicates that early experiences with the natural, “non-human” world are essential to health promotion and human development. In urban environments where the places to have these experiences are particularly sparse, an increasing number of youth are being diagnosed with cognitive/behavioural disorders. Even more are growing up without an ability to empathetically connect with others.

We're coming to understand that without time to connect with the natural world and retain the basic human skills of how to grow our own food, more and more youth are growing up with lack of compassion and focus, as well as poor eating habits and ignorance of sustainable ways to produce food. By helping youth discover their inner nature, EYA's Growing Kids program aims to reverse this troubling trend and develop a society that actively promotes and values health and sustainability.

The EYA currently works with 10 schools in the Vancouver School Board. For more information, visit www.eya.ca