

Free Verse Farm & Apothecary

2018 Farm Apprenticeship Description

We are seeking apprentices for the 2018 growing season on our herb farm & apothecary in Chelsea, Vermont. Applications are due by March 1st and we will be conducting interviews (ideally in person, but phone and video interviews will work) during the month of March. Hiring decisions will be made by early April.

For the past five years, we have grown medicinal, culinary, and tea herbs at our small farm. Using the herbs that we grow as our primary ingredients, we have created a line of herbal remedies, tea blends, herbal body care products, and culinary offerings. Our products are available in markets, farmstores, gift shops, and cafes. We also vend at the Norwich Farmers Market, and sell via our online apothecary shop. We are a family business, and this will be our second season hiring apprentices.

Apprentice positions at Free Verse Farm & Apothecary provide the opportunity to experience first-hand what it takes to work on a small herb farm and apothecary. The apprenticeship will focus on the cultivations of herbs, with apprentices spending the majority of their time in the fields planting, weeding, and harvesting crops, or in our barn, drying and processing an array of herbs. Applicants are not required to have previous farming or herbalism experience, though both are a plus.

Apprentices will also assist with other farm activities, such as tending our flock of chickens and the herd of beef that spends the summer on our pastures. Apprentices may also have the opportunity to be trained to assist at area farmers markets and to help craft and package products in our apothecary, though *the bulk of the apprenticeship will be focused outside on the farm.*

Apprenticeship Details:

- Apprentices will be offered a per diem stipend, the amount of which will be dependent on whether you are living on-farm or not. The stipend for first year apprentices who are not living on the farm is \$50 per day.
- The season generally runs from about May-October, with the first month considered a trial period. The position comprises 2-3 days per week, though there may be fewer work days per week at the beginning and end of the season. *We understand that some applicants may not be able to commit for the entire season, so please explain your availability in your application.*
- Work days generally last 8 hours. Start and end times will vary depending on the season, but work generally starts between 7-9am.
- There is also the possibility of extra hours available for farm-sitting for us during short trips away during the summer months.
- There is the possibility of living on the farm in our small vintage camper or in your own tent (please note interest on your application). In this scenario, we would be open to discussing different types of employment arrangements in terms of days, hours, and wages.
- *Applicants must:* possess a positive attitude, have reliable transportation, be able to lift 50 pounds, be detail-oriented, be able to work alone on occasion, and be willing to work outside in all weather conditions.

Benefits include: access to fresh herbs and vegetables, discounted apothecary products, first-hand instruction on growing and processing herbs, and the opportunity to expand your herbal and farming knowledge while spending the summer on a beautiful hillside in Vermont.