



EYA
ENVIRONMENTAL
YOUTH ALLIANCE

HELPING CHILDREN AND YOUTH DISCOVER THEIR INNER NATURE

2016 Youth Garden Apprenticeship

Summary

The EYA has been saving a diversity of vegetable and flower seeds in the Cottonwood Youth Garden for close to 15 years. Our intention in managing this garden has always been to provide youth aged 2-30 with opportunities to learn relevant skills and experience a tangible connection to the natural world. We want to foster youth leadership and support creative lifestyle choices that can foster a truly sustainable neighborhood and region.

In the past 2 years, the Youth Garden has been stewarded primarily by our weekly volunteers. The drop-in nature of this volunteer session means that participation can be inconsistent. We've designed this apprenticeship for the few youth who are truly interested in a more immersive learning opportunity. This is for people who want to participate in the life of the garden throughout the *entire* growing season.

By spending consistent time in the garden from March to October, you can witness the entire lifecycle of most of the annual plants we grow. This is the best way to learn how to grow your own food – by learning from the plants themselves.

The Youth Garden is located in the Cottonwood Community Garden, on the **corner of Raymur Ave and Malkin Ave.**

Responsibilities

- Attend each of the following 4 hour learning sessions (to support everyone's participation, the exact dates for these sessions will be set once apprentices are recruited – they will not take place during school hours)
 - Late February - Greenhouse Management and Plant Propagation
 - Early March - Garden Bed Assignments and Soil Preparation
 - Late March - Shoulder Season Crops
 - May - Heat Loving Crops
 - June - Winter Vegetables
 - July - Summer Maintenance and Care
 - August - Harvest, Prepare and Share
 - September - Seed Saving
 - October - Seed Cleaning and Storage
- Attend at least 50% of our weekly volunteer sessions each month, from March to October. Sessions take place every Saturday.
- Maintain your own garden plot. You will be given a plot, and we expect that you will plant and maintain it. If you do not, the plot will be re-assigned. We can help with watering but expect that you will also contribute to watering and weeding in your plot, on your own time.



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What You Get

- Access to a small community garden plot (~8'x4');
- Access to garden tools;
- Access to soil amendments, seed and a variety of transplants;
- Access to a greenhouse;
- Mentorship from EYA Program Manager and garden troubleshooting throughout the season;
- Connection to like-minded youth;
- Opportunities to participate in urban conservation and wildlife stewardship projects;
- Access to guest speakers and experts on: urban agriculture, bee conservation, soil reclamation, plant medicines, tree care and more.
- Opportunities to participate in growing plant material for weaving, linen creation, dye and print making as well as instruction on how to create a variety of art and technology from natural materials.
- Opportunities to learn basic construction and wood working skills;
- A certificate and letter of recommendation at the end of the season, as well as a strong reference.
- Connection to a large network of individuals and organizations working in the fields of: sustainability, conservation, social justice, environmental education and urban agriculture.

Interested applicants should email

matthew@eya.ca

Please provide a short explanation of why you are interested in the apprenticeship.

Application Deadline

Sunday, February 21