

Eagle Street Rooftop Farm// 2022 Apprenticeship Information Sheet

How do I apply for the apprenticeship program?

Our farm-based apprenticeship program opens for enrollment in March, and begins in April. A second enrollment period begins in June (typically aimed for college students interested in a summer session). All applicants must commit to a minimum of three months. The full season is mid-April through the last weekend in October. To join the team, you must show proof of vaccination + booster shot for Covid-19. To apply, please:

- Read this information sheet!
- Email growingchefs@gmail.com your resume and introductory email. Your resume/intro email should include any relevant experience including (but not limited to) any farming/horticultural background. **TIP:** Identifying your skills and what you're interested in learning more about make a great (succinct) introductory email.
- Applications will be processed and responded to by **early April** if not sooner. You will be asked to complete a quick survey before orientation.
- Accepted applicants will be asked to submit proof of vaccination for Covid-19. Please note that if you cannot/are not vaccinated, you are welcome to participate in our open volunteer days, masked. These dates are announced on social media starting in May.

What skills do I need to apply?

Our farm thrives under the care of passionate, punctual, dedicated individuals with a can-do attitude and experience working outdoors. We work rain or shine from April until October. It helps if you know how to take care of plants, but it matters more that you're a team-builder, strongly self-directed, curious enough to learn quickly, and have good communication skills. Our orientation day should allow you time to meet us and decide if this is an environment where you'll thrive, grow and learn.

When does the spring program begin?

Orientation is scheduled in mid to late April. Changes and updates will be shared with applicants by late March/first week April.

The Farm anticipates opening to the public for volunteering opportunities and our on-site market in May 2022. We plan to be open from 1 - 4 pm on one Saturday a month. Apprentices are encouraged to join as many as possible, and a minimum of 1 market per 3 month period.

Because the apprenticeship program is a *team*, we highly suggest you attend these dates. However, particularly for students with scheduling difficulties, inform us if you are unable to start your spring season on those dates. Our summer and fall applications are rolling; that is to say, as long as there are three months you can commit to before Thanksgiving, we will consider your application.

What is the program schedule?

All applicants commit to all Friday work days (on site or field trips) and one to two additional days of the week, as their schedule allows, for three months (minimum). Note that Fridays (9-12) and one market Saturday (*typically* 12 - 4 pm for our program; 1 - 4 pm for the public*) per three-month season are *mandatory staff days*. The Friday before the Saturday market is a day off.

*market/public volunteer hours subject to change based on weather/scheduling.

Sample schedule:

Friday, 9 am-12 pm (mandatory)

Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9 am-12 pm (selected)

*plus Saturday June 1st market/public volunteer hours (mandatory), with Friday, May 31st as a day off.

If your schedule changes over the season, please communicate that and we'll adapt. However, if you are unable to commit to Fridays or market Saturdays on your schedule, we suggest you consider our Saturday open hours as a volunteer visitor. Planned events and emergencies are understandable, but we strongly encourage you to miss as few workdays (especially Fridays) as possible.

What can I expect to learn?

Our apprenticeship program focuses on best practices in urban farming: organic horticulture and agriculture, compost and fertility management, green roof care, and the opportunity to explore farms in our urban and upstate network. We spend a good amount of time on the rooftop farm learning by doing, as well as discussing our practices. As possible, off-site visits are structured to network with other urban farming and related fields, as well as self-directed inquiry targeting building your skills and vocabulary around horticulture, rooftop gardening, composting, arboriculture, beekeeping, phenology, and land use.

We welcome your questions about the experience, and would direct you to our former apprenticeship staff to inquire about their own background at the Farm. We are happy to provide their contact information upon request, or you can meet them during our open days.

What can I expect to gain from my experience?

We are a staff of passionate professionals. You'll grow quickly as a green thumb at Eagle Street. Upon matriculating (even during the duration of the program!) we are more than happy to provide recommendations and connect you to our vast network of farm and food friends. Many of our apprenticeship graduates have gone onto graduate school, professional careers in urban agriculture and horticulture, farming their own land, and food industry entrepreneurship. Strong friendships are a big part of the program, too. Over one hundred and twenty five apprentices have grown up at Eagle Street Rooftop Farm since 2010. We look forward to meeting you, too.

Any other questions? Please reach out to Head Farmer Annie Novak (growingchefs@gmail.com) and we'll respond as soon as we can. We look forward to hearing from you!