2017–2018 TD ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS PROGRAM

Promoting agro-ecology through food forest stewardship at Just Food Farm

WHAT’S THIS PROJECT ABOUT?

Just Food is a non-profit organization with a mission to work towards vibrant, just and sustainable food and farming systems in the Ottawa region. The Just Food Farm is a 150-acre working farm on the western edge of Blackburn Hamlet.

The Just Food Farm is intended to be a community hub. Responsible and long-lasting stewardship of the farm is an essential component of its success as an avenue for learning and for supporting the production of healthy food in the Ottawa region. A Just Food stewardship committee will be created with the goal of engaging the community, educating youth, establishing a long-term vision and raising awareness of the farm’s responsibility for ecological stewardship.

Fruit- and nut-bearing bushes and trees provide a number of direct benefits, such as enhanced ecological habitat and biodiversity as well as numerous easily scalable indirect benefits, including contributing to community food security, community well-being and community-building.

Just Food has identified a clear need for city-wide education on trees and shrubs that produce nuts and fruit. To address this, a food forest and maple grove will be set up at the farm, which will be used to educate visitors and demonstrate the benefits of planting food-bearing plants.

WHAT WILL I BE DOING?

In this project, you will work with other students to: (i) help plan the food forest site and prepare long-term care and educational materials, (ii) assist in organizing the food forest planting days with community members, (iii) raise awareness and celebrate edible trees and gardens through promotional campaigns and (iv) help set up a Just Farm stewardship committee.

IMPORTANT DATES

Application deadline
September 6, 2017
Participants: Register to Placement #85 - fall 2017
Team Leader: Register to Placement #92 – fall 2017

Project timeline
Start date: September 6, 2017
End date: November 30, 2017

LOCATION

You can work from home and at the Just Food Farm, where the groves and farm stewardship committee will be based. You can get to the farm by a short OC Transpo ride.

PARTICIPANTS

We’re looking for 10 students to can give 30 hours each over two to three months, averaging about three hours a week (more on planting week-ends).
WHAT’S IN IT FOR ME?
Your participation in this placement will give you the chance to:
- Plan and implement a community project and deliver tangible results
- Develop the ability to work in a team
- Learn about the field of sustainable food and farming locally
- Gain experience advocating for and raising awareness of the benefits of food forests and responsible land, soil and ecosystem stewardship
- Develop your communication skills
- Execute an awareness and outreach campaign
- Work on your project management and leadership skills
- Gain knowledge of the non-profit world
- Create and organize an effective, community-engaging committee

VOLUNTEER PROFILE
We’re looking for English-speaking or bilingual students who are:
- Studying or interested in a field related to the environment, biology, geography, agro-ecology, sustainability, community development or advocacy
- Studying or interested in communication, marketing or education
- Effective communicators with active listening skills
- Able to develop, plan and implement a project with deadlines
- Able to work in a team and on their own
- Self-starters with proven ability to adapt and problem solve
- Interested in increase their knowledge of issues related to ecological systems, sustainability and the regional food and farming systems in the Ottawa region

DETAILED ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>DATES AND LOCATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leadership training</td>
<td>September 8 afternoon. Mandatory (uOttawa)</td>
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<td>Group orientation session</td>
<td>First weekend of September (Just Food Farm)</td>
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<td>Planning and site prep for community food forest and Mayor’s Maple Grove</td>
<td>Second week of September (Just Food on weekend)</td>
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<td>Develop and implement outreach campaign 1: Edible tree awareness (e.g., #613myedibletree and using Twitter, Facebook, Instagram)</td>
<td>Second to fourth weeks of September (depending on tasks: on campus, at Just Food or your choice of location)</td>
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<td>Prepare Maple Grove site, install irrigation system, tend trees and site after planting completed, install signs and information boards to describe the purpose, future activities, etc.</td>
<td>September (Just Food)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assist with Food Forest site preparation, promotions and planting weekend, installing signs and information boards to describe food forest components</td>
<td>Third and fourth weeks of September (Just Food on weekend and/or weekdays)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plan and implement outreach campaign 2: Food Forest Planting Days (together with community members)</td>
<td>September 30 and October 1 (Just Food)</td>
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<td>Assist with planning, outreach, establishment of Just Food Farm stewardship committee by gathering information to define committee’s purpose and terms of reference, identifying best practices, developing promotional campaign material and activities, setting up student area</td>
<td>October (depending on tasks: on campus, at Just Food or your choice of location)</td>
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<td>Mid-October: Submit draft report with recommendations on stewardship committee for feedback</td>
<td>Early November: Submit final report</td>
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<td>Create guide to maintaining edible trees: Research best practices, liaise with local not-for-profit Hidden Harvest, develop and revise guide, create online version of guide, develop and implement promotion strategy</td>
<td>October (depending on tasks: on campus, at Just Food or your choice of location)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-October: Submit draft guide on edible tree maintenance for feedback</td>
<td>Early November: Submit final guide</td>
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