

**Servant Leadership Summer Internship Placement Site
Job Description
Summer 2012**

Organization Name: Gaia Gardens

Physical Address: 900 Dancing Fox Rd
Decatur, GA 30032

Mailing Address (if different):

631 Robinson Ave.
Atlanta, GA 30312

Phone: 404.840.9618

Web site: <http://smallfarms.wordpress.com>

Internship Supervisor: Joe Reynolds
loveislovefarm@gmail.com

Organization's Mission Statement:

Gaia Gardens demonstrates that young farmers can successfully grow organic, delicious produce through systems that support the farm's ecology, biodiversity, and community.

Summary of organization's primary programs and services:

Gaia Gardens is a 5 acre, certified organic urban garden created and supported by the East Lake Commons Co-Housing Community. We grow incredible produce for a 100-member Community Supported Agriculture group (CSA), the East Atlanta Village Farmers' Market, and some of Atlanta's best restaurants. This is accomplished through planting a tremendous diversity of food crops, maintaining several fruit orchard areas, and raising shiitake mushrooms on hardwood logs. Our soil is maintained and built through cover cropping, crop rotation, composting, conservation tillage, and recordkeeping practices. Gaia Gardens, like many small farms, believes in a direct, and often personal, relationship with our customers and a high level of customer service. We also seek to explore a goal for profitability through diversity of business strategies and resourcefulness. We host

educational and volunteer groups that have an interest in understanding the origin of food and the value of local food production. Gaia Gardens also seeks to build solidarity with other local farms and food organizations through educational and entrepreneurial partnerships.

Intern's title:

Farm Intern

Number of interns requested by this organization:

Two

Internship project/job description:

Gaia Gardens is a place of true beauty and inspiration that can only be maintained through daily vigilance and action. Each day, we all work together to achieve this end. Interns will be expected to work hard in performing daily fieldwork tasks, such as shoveling, planting, seeding, hoeing, weeding, mulching, pruning, trellising, and covering. Interns will also help to harvest, wash, count, record, and pack for our bi-weekly CSA distributions, a weekly farmers' market, and restaurant orders. Also, we ask that interns express an interest in grasping practices, concepts, and philosophies surrounding food production and local food systems to assist in explaining our daily work and systems to visitors and volunteers. At times, interns may be asked to assist with marketing and will need to be prepared to discuss food products, growing practices, and cooking strategies to customers efficiently and enthusiastically. In addition, each farmer must be aware that observational and recording practices are essential to the farm's success.

Qualifications:

We ask that interns be capable of working physically hard outside for at least 8 hours in the Summer and be capable of carrying at least 30 lbs. for 15 minutes. Interns will also need to take direction, have good organizational skills, communicate concerns, and work in a variety of tasks, and well with others. We each take responsibility for wearing appropriate clothing and only close-toed shoes, as well as bringing our own lunch for each workday. Interns will also need to be comfortable working in a public setting as community members often walk through the garden. We hope all interns come with a passion for

eating and growing. A desire to potentially farm or work in food systems in the future is also of high value.

Other Requirements:

All interns are expected to have health insurance.

Will the internship require that the student have a car?

Not necessarily, Gaia Gardens is located south of Decatur and east of East Atlanta near the crossing of Glenwood and Second Ave. in the East Lake neighborhood.

Is placement site accessible by public transit or other transportation options?

We are located about a mile and a half from the East Lake MARTA station making for easy biking. Applicants will need to research bus schedules if necessary.