

Job Opportunity



Grow Food, Grow Hope AmeriCorps*VISTA Summer Associate

Job Description: AmeriCorps* VISTA Summer Associate

The Center for Service & Civic Engagement is seeking energetic, hard-working, positive individuals who work well with others to serve as an AmeriCorps* VISTA Summer Associate for 10-weeks starting May 24th –July 23rd, 2010. These individuals will gain wonderful experience working with hands on community gardening projects on the Wilmington College Campus and in the surrounding Clinton County Community.

The Grow Food, Grow Hope Garden Initiative is a Wilmington College sponsored project which seeks to raise awareness of the benefits of local and sustainable food production, backyard and community gardening, and increasing self-sustainability in our daily food habits and in turn combat the effects of poverty. Both the city of Wilmington and Wilmington College have a history steeped in rich agricultural heritage, and we believe our environment to be the perfect incubator for local and sustainable food production. Grow Food, Grow Hope is an AmeriCorps* VISTA project carried out by nine VISTA volunteers and a number of integral community partners. Our primary focus areas include community and backyard gardening, “buy local” campaigning, farmers markets, CSA education, youth and community outreach, research and data collection, and public relations.

Description of summer project activities, including the expected outputs and outcomes of this initiative:

As an organization, we facilitate a community garden on the W.C. campus, where families and volunteers tend to 20 plots of kitchen-ready herbs and vegetables. This growing season we are planning to increase the plots from 20 to 40 or 60 beds. We have devoted an acre of land on the Wilmington College farm for bulk vegetable production, and the majority of the food harvested will be donated to local food pantries. We are partnering with the city of Wilmington and the Clinton County Regional Planning Commission in a Buy Local First campaign, the Clinton County Farmer's Market, and a number of area elementary schools and preschool programs to establish community gardens on their campuses. Our service to Wilmington and the people in this community is our primary concern.

Summer Associates will provide the additional hands needed to achieve optimum results this growing season. Associates will be plugged into the following areas:

School Gardens

- Assist Grow Food Grow Hope: Youth Outreach Coordinator in the development of 3 school yard gardens.
- Provide weekly assistance in educating the participating school partners on appropriate maintenance of the garden site.
- Assist in the coordination of learning activities at our garden sites around Wilmington, which bring the core values of growing food to children, through activities and educational seminars that get kids in the dirt and having fun.

Backyard Gardens

- Assist Grow Food Grow Hope: Backyard Gardens Coordinator in using the square-foot gardening method made famous by Mel Bartholomew. Small-plot gardening is a manageable and productive way to augment a family's food supply and introduce the concepts of growing food from seed.
- We have created a project goal of 35 new backyard gardens around Wilmington and Clinton County after three years. This spring we are aiming for 12. The Summer Associates will assist the VISTA member will serve as crucial staff to conduct "house calls" throughout the 10-week venture to provide on-going assistance to the backyard participants. The Associates will make weekly site visits to the homes of garden families to help weed and harvest, to answer any questions the families might have and to monitor the overall progress of the garden bed. They will also provide on-going education through discussions, demonstrations and tutorials as the growing season progresses.
- Assist in compiling the resources needed to build plant and maintain each of the gardens.

Community Gardens

- Serve as garden mentors to assist new or novice gardeners by helping them in planting, weeding and harvesting their plots. Education is an important element to the community garden, as we aim to make the new gardeners self-sustainable in the future.
- Assist Grow Food Grow Hope Community Gardens VISTA in coordinating harvest days at the academic farm focused on bulk vegetable production grown for community food pantries.
- Coordinate with the Grow Food Grow Hope Food Distribution VISTA to distributed harvested produce from the college farms, to area food pantries and organizations that serve the hungry in Clinton County.
- Assist Grow Food Grow Hope Data Collection VISTA in logging of the harvested produce by completing daily log sheets and distribution tracking forms.

Farmer's Market

- Assist Grow Food Grow Hope Farmer's Market/Buy Local Foods VISTA in maintaining a weekly presence at the market at an informational booth where market goers can learn about our project and about the market in general.
- Conduct periodic surveys of the consumers and the growers about the state of the market in order to steer its progress in the right direction.
- Assist Grow Food Grow Hope Grower's Co-op VISTA in connecting local growers with area businesses.

Desired Skills:

We are seeking individuals who are hard working, energetic, and work well with others. Summer Associates must maintain a positive attitude and be able to represent the Grow Food, Grow Hope Program and Wilmington College. Associates must be teachable; quick to listen, slow to speak. Gardening skills are good but not required. Applicants must have citizenship in the United States.

Time Requirement:

Summer Associates will be required to be fully available from May 24, 2010- July 23, 2010. Participants are not permitted to have additional employment during this time frame and do not qualify for vacation days.

Benefits:

Summer Associates will be compensated with a stipend of \$858 per month for their term of service. Following their term of service they will be awarded their choice of either \$1,000 education award or \$125 per month cash award. Housing is not provided; however, is readily available within the Wilmington City Limits.

To apply: Applications are currently being accepted and will remain open until all positions are filled. To apply follow the directions below:

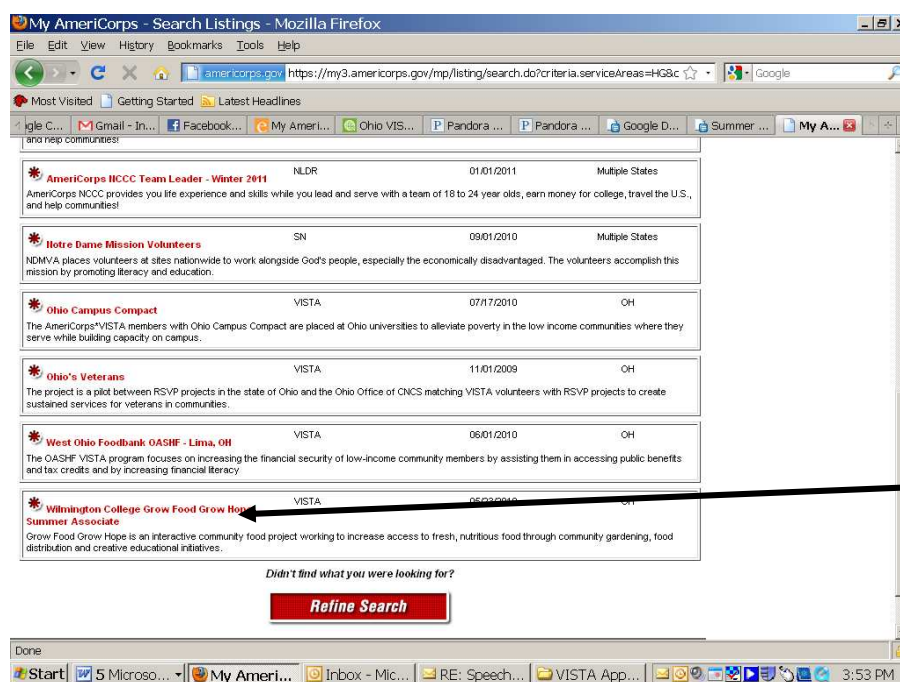
Fill out the online application at www.americorps.org.



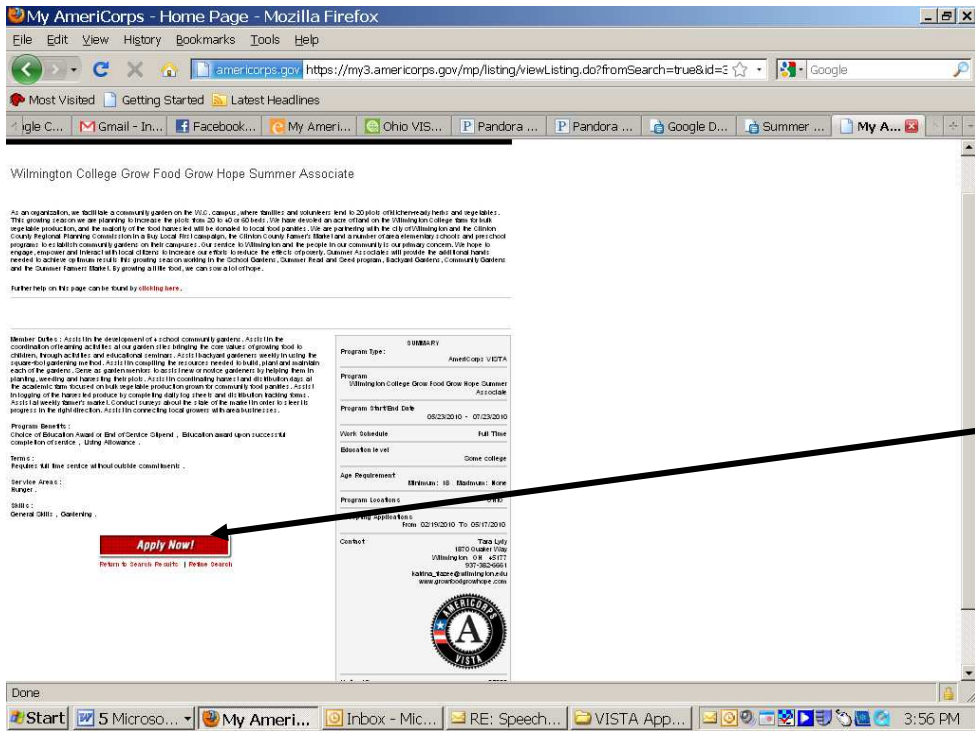
1. Select
"Hunger"

2. Select
"Ohio"

3. Click
Search



4. Scroll Down and Select
"Wilmington College
Grow Food Grow Hope
Summer Associate"



5. Scroll Down and Click
"Apply Now?"

Application Follow-up:

1. Once you have finished your on-line application, a notification will be generated and sent to the Wilmington College Center for Service & Civic Engagement.
2. The Grow Food, Grow Hope staff will review your application.
3. Should your application move to the interview round, you will be contacted via telephone and/or email.
4. Candidates who are selected for the interview round will participate in a phone and/or on-site interview.
5. Selected candidates will be notified by phone and in writing of their acceptance.

Questions:

All questions should be directed to Katrina Frazee, Grow Food Grow Hope Project Manager at 937-382-6661, ext. 321

