

Community Harvest Project is a 501(c)3 nonprofit farm with locations in North Grafton and Harvard, Mass. Our mission is to build healthy communities through volunteer farming and nutrition education. Each year our sites host over 8,000 volunteers who work together to grow and donate an average of 270,000 pounds of produce each year to local hunger relief agencies such as the Worcester County Food Bank, Community Servings, and more.

We are currently seeking an Orchard Assistant to work under the direction of our Orchard Manager at our Harvard site, the Prospect Hill Orchard. This 75-acre property includes approximately 30 acres of apples, an acre of peaches, an acre of asparagus, and a small hops yard. The vast majority of our apples are grown for donation and harvest from late August to late October, with a small portion sold to select wholesale partners.

The right candidate will have experience in orchard and/or other agricultural work, will be self-motivated, have a friendly personality, and enjoy working with individuals of all ages and abilities. See below for more information.

Interested applicants should email a cover letter, resume, and 2-3 references to Orchard Manager Susan Conant at susan@community-harvest.org.

JOB DESCRIPTION

The Orchard Assistant is responsible for assisting the Orchard Manager by executing all agriculture operations at the Prospect Hill Orchard site and by creating a positive volunteer experience for all visitors.

This is a year-round, blended position with the following hours:

--40 hours per week September to April

--20 hours per week May to August

Duties and responsibilities include:

--Assist in all orchard operations:

-Execute daily agricultural duties

-Weeding

-Mowing

-High-density maintenance

-Equipment maintenance

--Execute harvest duties

-Picking

-Processing and packing

-Delivery

-Assist with distribution partners

--Execute skilled/restricted farm activities after necessary training

-Spraying

-Pruning

--Assist in all volunteer operations:

-Work with Team Leaders to plan volunteer sessions

-Oversee and work with volunteer groups

-Provide a positive volunteer experience

BENEFITS

- Compensation: \$14 per hour
- Time Off: 15 days of paid time off / 5 days of paid sick time / paid holidays from September 1 to April 30
- Employer-sponsored health insurance with 50% of coverage paid by CHP
- Employer-sponsored 401k plan (no match)

QUALIFICATIONS

- 2 years of agricultural experience, preferably in an orchard setting
- 1 year of tractor experience
- Knowledge of IPM and a Pesticide Applicator License a plus (If you do not have a PAL, training will be provided and we will help you get your PAL)
- Ability to lift 50 pounds
- Ability to work in all types of weather including rain and snow
- Excellent communication skills
- Positive, self-starting attitude