



Conservationist

Preservation of the environment and wildlife at Procter's woodlands and farm.

General Description

Procter Center Farm is a production and educational, 6-acre, diversified vegetable, and livestock farm in Central Ohio. We supply Procter Camp & Conference Center with a substantial amount of fresh produce, operate a farmers market stand in Columbus, and have a growing CSA Program. Each season, we offer up to 30 Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares. We extend our season with a greenhouse, hoop house, raised beds, and row covers. Though not certified, we use only natural and organic practices to grow our food.

Included on our property is 70-acres of woodlands that host two vernal pools, which are a sought-after eco-system in Ohio for their ability to house many amphibians, a variety of plants and insects, and more unique lifeforms, like fairy shrimp.

At Procter, we recognize the connection between the land, our labor, our food, our bodies, and our spirit. We engage each element with due conscience as we cultivate healthier people and a more just society.

Our woods have become a focal point in conservation efforts for Madison County. Through support and guidance from our local USDA offices, we have the goal to continue to clear invasive species, maintain trails, and begin development on outdoor education programs.

Internship Description

Procter is seeking two Conservationists for the months of May, June, and July to assist with our efforts in cleaning up the woodland habitats by removing invasive species. This position would report to the Director of Farm Development and Creation Care Advocacy.

Our farm is staffed through our Farmhand Internship Program, which is overseen by our Farm Manager. Alongside the Farmhands, the Conservationist will spend a few days each week farming for Procter, which includes, but is not limited to, soil prep, transplanting, watering, weeding, harvesting, regularly lifting 20 to 50-pound loads, feeding animals, collecting eggs, mowing, and working at farmers markets.

The Farm Manager and Director of Farm Development and Creation Care Advocacy provide all the training needed to make sure tools and small motorized equipment are used in a manner that keeps all staff safe. Although not required, interns typically live onsite and are provided room and board.

Interns must successfully pass a state and federal background check. A valid driver's license is required.

Our Mission Statement

Procter Center provides a safe, inviting, and spacious rural setting that cultivates spiritual formation, models sustainable living, and celebrates God's love and reconciliation through hospitality, prayer, study, work, and play.

Skills Required

- Team-focused

- Self-starter
- Crew-work experience
- Comfortable using power tools and motorized equipment or willing to learn
- Comfortable driving a truck and tractor or willing to learn
- Lift and carry 50+ pounds
- Basic money addition
- Basic record-keeping
- Experience using Google Calendar

Skills Desired

Conservationists should possess a philosophical enthusiasm for sustainable agriculture, conservation, and hard work. Practical knowledge and experience in forestry or organic gardening is an advantage, but not required. We are looking for people who demonstrate responsibility, integrity, reliability, initiative, creativity, and a strong work ethic.

Educational Opportunities

Interns will learn the fundamentals of operating a small organic farm from seed to sales and develop a deeper understanding of different woodland habitats. They will have the opportunity to learn the agricultural/botanical elements as well as the business end of the operation. Not only will interns learn on the job about soil, irrigation, pest management, tool use, planting schedules, and more, but will also learn about marketing and sales at our farmer's market stands. Interns are often able to receive class credit for their internship. Please speak to your advisor and Procter Center about details.

Schedule

All-staff days are every Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, so that we may have appropriate coverage. Saturday through Tuesday, there is a rotating schedule to ensure that everyone has two days off per week, but that there is also always at least one person completing the daily tasks.

Meals

Interns will have access to excess farm produce and meals provided by Procter Center Kitchen. Meals are only served to employees on camp and event days. Meal schedule may be subject to change.

Housing

Conservationist will be provided housing at Procter Center. This could be in the form of a house, eco-pod, or a cabin. Accommodation is modest and comfortable. Interns will have access to hot showers and possibly a shared kitchen. Wi-Fi is not always available in the cabins, but access to Wi-Fi is always available in the center's main building, Hobson Hall.

Stipend: \$1,000 per month.

To apply, send a letter of interest, resume, and three references to Danielle Vogel at procterfarm@proctercenter.org. Please title the email, Conservationist. If you have worked on a farm or on an invasive species removal team before, please provide the employer's name and contact information as one of your three references.