



CENTER FOR WHOLE COMMUNITIES

Internship Opportunity

The Center for Whole Communities at Knoll Farm in Fayston, Vermont is looking for interns for the 2012 season. This is a great opportunity to experience working at a non-profit retreat/education center on an organic farm, and to interact with a diverse group of leaders from the environmental and social change fields. We give strong preference to candidates who are able to commit to our full season (May 1-November 1), but will also consider applicants who can work for a slightly shorter period. CWC is specifically seeking to enhance its racial and cultural diversity within the make-up of our staff. Therefore, we are especially inviting candidates who identify as a person of color, or from a non-dominant ethnic or racial background to apply for this position.

Internship Mission & Objectives: The overall mission of the Internship Program is to provide a unique experience as part of a dynamic learning community living close to the land. Our primary purpose as staff and interns during the summer season is to create a safe and sacred space in which CWC retreat and workshop participants can have deep and transformational experiences. As an intern, you will help to accomplish this by both supporting the faculty and participants in each retreat *and* maintaining the physical plant systems of Knoll Farm, where the retreats are held. Interns will learn basic skills including carpentry, grounds maintenance, plumbing, trail maintenance, gardening, composting, animal husbandry and more.



Intern Responsibilities: The work of the interns is to help run all aspects of our seasonal retreat center, including welcoming and orienting visitors to the farm; building trails in the forest; maintaining our campsites, solar bathhouse, yurt johns and forest yurt; cutting and stacking firewood; cooking with whole foods and general kitchen support; attending to the needs of retreat participants; providing faculty and staff support for retreat logistics, and being a positive and energetic part of our community as a whole.

Intern Qualifications: Qualifications include a passion for working outdoors; ability to work with your hands; an interest in agriculture, whole foods, social justice, and environmental issues; and an ability to remain flexible and positive. Must be able to set priorities, work long hours, and be both a positive part of a team and an independent self-starter. For the right person this is the chance to be working outside

in a beautiful, rewarding, and stimulating place and to put all kinds of different skills to work. Experience in the above areas is helpful, but not required.

Hours: Interns will be expected to work approximately 50-70 hour weeks and some weekends, with regular days off (generally around 8 days off per month). CWC retreats usually last 7 consecutive days.

Compensation: Compensation includes shared housing within walking distance to the Center with full-sized bed, kitchen, and shower facilities; three meals a day when retreats are in session; and a weekly stipend.

Relationship between Knoll Farm & CWC: Knoll Farm is a 400-acre working farm in the Mad River Valley of Vermont, where we raise Icelandic sheep for grass-fed meat and wool, and grow high-bush blueberries and organic vegetables for our educational programs. Our farm is the home of our nonprofit, Center for Whole Communities. While primarily the interns will be providing support for CWC, there will be weekly opportunities to be mentored by Knoll Farm employees and gain experience in raising sheep and running a pick-your-own blueberry farm.

About CWC's Mission and Services: The Center for Whole Communities (CWC) fosters inclusive communities that are strongly rooted in place and where all people – regardless of income, race, or background – have access to and a healthy relationship with the natural world. We strengthen the capacities of environmental and social sectors by connecting their leaders to one another, by helping them to develop more durable and compelling responses to problems that cannot adequately be addressed in isolation, and by transforming their movements to act in concert with each other's goals and aspirations.

CWC catalyzes change at the individual, organizational, community, and movement level through leadership development services. These include *Whole Thinking Retreats*, *Whole Measures Training*, and a diverse suite of *Workshops* and targeted engagements to empower environmental and social change leaders to implement the Whole Communities approach on the ground. Through program curricula, CWC aims to build: stronger connections between land and people, bridges across sectors, and awareness about issues of power and privilege to galvanize change within the environmental and social justice movements. Our staff, board and faculty are also examining how "isms" and privilege operate within our own walls, coming to a deeper understanding of how they frame our decisions and determine organizational culture, and learning how to evolve.

We believe that one of the greatest strengths of a community is rich diversity of race, religion, national origin, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, height, weight, physical ability and age. CWC is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization with a policy of equal opportunity and non-discrimination in employment and is committed to helping all of its employees feel safe, comfortable, accommodated, and valued in our work environment and the larger Vermont community.

Center for Whole Communities – www.wholecommunities.org – 700 Bragg Hill Road, Fayston, VT 05673 – 802.496.5690

How to Apply: Please send a cover letter, resume, completed application questions (attached), and contact information to taz@wholecommunities.org. Application deadline: March 1, 2012.

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit the following application materials no later than March 1, 2012 via email to taz@wholecommunities.org (you may also handwrite and mail your application).

- 1) **Cover letter**, introducing yourself, sharing your personality, and telling us how your skills and experience make you a good fit for this position
- 2) **Resume**, outlining your previous experience
- 3) **References**: contact information and relationship to two professional and one personal reference
- 4) **Answers** to the application questions (typed into a separate Word document or hand-written)

INTERNSHIP APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Please share your name, address, phone number, email, and preferred method of contact.
2. Please note what portion of our season you will be available, between May 1 and November 1 (please do not apply if you cannot be here by June 1 or through September 15).
3. Please briefly describe what you hope to get out of this internship.
4. Where have you worked in the previous two summers/years?
5. What kind of work did you do there?
6. What kind of work are you most interested in pursuing in the future?
7. Please tell us how much, if any, experience you have with the following skills areas, and illustrate with a brief example:
 - Preparing food/cooking
 - Gardening/farming
 - Trail building or maintaining
 - Building fires, cutting firewood
 - Carpentry and maintenance
 - Hosting groups
 - Operating machinery such as tractor, chainsaw, mower, or weed whacker
 - Working with diverse groups of people
 - Managing multiple tasks at once
 - Working independently
 - Working as a team
 - Learning about oppression, such as racism, sexism, homophobia, etc.
 - Please speak to your understanding or experience with social justice and its relationship to environment/conservation
8. Do you drive manual?
9. Do you have any experience working in an educational setting? If so, please elaborate.
10. What interests you most about this internship?

Thank you very much,
Taz Squire, Land Steward
taz@wholecommunities.org
802.496.5690