



CSA Volunteer Description

I. Position Information:			
Title:	Big River Farms CSA Volunteer		
Program/Dept.	Big River Farms		
Location:	Marine on St. Croix		
Supervisor:	Market Specialist	Created:	05/2020

This is a seasonal volunteer position for ~ 3 hours of work each week for a total of 54 hours from mid-June through mid-October (June 17-October 14). This volunteer position is compensated with a Big River Farms CSA work share (half acre share).

Organization Overview

The Food Group (TFG) is a local nonprofit focused on advancing healthy food access. Established in 1976, we provide nutritious food and support services to over 240 hunger relief partners and food distribution locations, in addition to training immigrant farmers, farmers of color, and other historically underrepresented farmers in sustainable farming practices.

Our culture and environment can be described as high-trust, cooperative, collaborative, open, and fun. We are a workplace that is full of people who genuinely appreciate each other and work best when tackling big ideas as a team. We value individuals who bring their life experiences to their work, knowing that the ways that they have experienced racial, economic, or gender injustice drive their passion to create change. We are a team of passionate, dedicated people who work alongside each other.

Equity is fundamental to our mission to fight hunger and nourish our community. Where we live, how much money we make, or the color of our skin currently influences access to healthy and culturally-appropriate foods. We must address the roots of these inequities so everyone in our community has the opportunity to live their best life. We believe in working with our community and organizations to improve food access and make systemic changes in hunger relief. To do so, equity is a part of all aspects of our work. We invite individuals from different abilities, ethnicities, genders, races, religions, sexual orientations, and socioeconomic backgrounds to take part in and shape the work in the community.



II. Position Summary:

The primary function of this role is to help pack weekly CSA boxes during the 18-week season. This position also assists in maintaining efficient and effective farm operations while adhering to the food safety plan.

The ideal candidate for this position has an interest in working on a small farm or at a small produce business, a commitment to organic vegetable farming, and a desire to support beginning farmers. The ability to communicate in a language shared with growers in the program (in addition to English) is a strong advantage (Hmong or Spanish).

Proposed Schedule:

Wednesdays: 6:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m. – Pack weekly produce boxes, load truck, and pack shed/cooler.

III. Core Functions:

1. Pack weekly produce boxes (Wednesdays mid-June through mid-October).
2. Provide excellent customer service and be a strong ambassador for the farm when interacting with other CSA volunteers and members.
3. Communicate regularly with BRF staff and farmers regarding any farm operation or logistical concerns, challenges and successes.
4. Assist in maintaining clean and safe farm infrastructure and equipment in accordance with food safety regulations; primarily the packing shed, produce harvest totes, boxes and delivery vehicles.
5. Learn and adhere to the BRF COVID-19 operations plan to protect the safety and health of yourself, other CSA volunteers, farmers and staff.

IV. Position Requirements:

Skills, Knowledge and Abilities

- Commitment to equity and ability to work effectively with individuals who are significant diversity with respect to race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, nationality, and religion.
 - Must be able to work effectively in an organization that has recognized its own issues related to equity and is seeking to be more representative of the community.
 - Demonstrated commitment to hunger relief focused on health, nutrition, and equity.
 - Knowledge of and a commitment to organic vegetable farming.
 - A desire to support beginning farmers' skills and support their professional growth.
 - Ability to work as a team as well as independently with minimal supervision.
 - Strong interpersonal and communication skills.
 - Highly motivated, organized, great attention to detail and tendency toward solution-based thinking.
 - Ability to be punctual and dependable.
 - Ability to manage time effectively, prioritize and meet deadlines.
 - Ability to be creative and flexible in responding to changing priorities and emerging needs.
 - Excellent customer service skills.
-

- The ability to communicate in a language shared with growers in the program (in addition to English) is a strong advantage.

Desired Education and Experience

- At least one year of experience working on a small farm or a small retail company (desired, but not required).
- Experience with working a production focused vegetable operation and selling through a CSA program, wholesale and/or farmers market (desired, but not required).
- Knowledgeable about general food safety practices.

Physical Demands

- Ability to perform the sometimes strenuous physical tasks involved in organic vegetable farming.
- Ability to lift 40 lbs.
- Reliable transportation to and from the farm in Marine on St. Croix and a clean driving record.

V. Working Conditions and Environment:

This position will be based in Marine on St. Croix, MN. Work is primarily outdoors, on the farm and requires the use of farm equipment and facilities.

All volunteers must be able to work effectively in a mission-driven agency whose clients and staff exhibit significant diversity with respect to race, ethnicity, gender orientation, socio-economic status, nationality, and religion.

People of Color and LGBTQ people are strongly encouraged to apply. The Food Group is an equal opportunity employer.

Questions? Contact Matt Frank, Big River Farms Market Specialist:
mfrank@thefoodgroupmn.org | 651-433-3676, x4218

