



2023 YOUTH SUMMER CREW APPLICATION

Our Youth Leadership Program cultivates young food leaders in Bridgeport by developing skills in agricultural knowledge, food justice, career readiness, and leadership. These skills are achieved through participation in the Youth Summer Crew, Food Leader Advisory Group, and an Academic Year Fellowship Program. Youth determine their role in the food system by forging meaningful connections with their neighbors, land, community, and city.

The Youth Summer Crew is one aspect of the Green Village Initiative Youth Leadership Program



Green Village Initiative (GVI) is excited for the 2023 growing season and to host our Youth Summer Crew at Reservoir Community Farm! The 2023 Youth Summer Crew runs June 20th - August 12th (Schedule may be adjusted based on the last day of school). Days combine farm work, skill building workshops, leading farm tours and volunteer groups.

- Youth will be paid \$15 per hour to work, develop, learn and grow into leaders working up to 26 hours each week for eight weeks.
- Youth will receive 2-4 hours a week of paid training in urban farming, leadership, and other skills.
- Youth will work Tuesday - Saturday at Reservoir Community Farm, 1469 Reservoir Avenue, Bridgeport
- Tuesday - Friday you will be working from 7:30am -12:30pm with an extended work day on Saturday from 9:00am - 2:00pm.
- Lunch time is paid and food will be provided.



This is a development opportunity in which youth can accomplish personal and professional goals by practicing leadership through urban farming. We will train youth onsite to accomplish tasks and feel confident in your work, but youth **MUST** be ready to learn.

If accepted, participants must be prepared for:

<p>Committing to at least 4 hours a day of intense physical labor farming outdoors during the summer. (This means heat, humidity, bending, kneeling, and lifting heavy objects!) This requires a mindset of endurance and a consistent positive energy level for you and your team.</p>	<p>Group discussions that will ask you to think deeply about issues you may have not talked about before.</p>	<p>Skill building workshops which require your participation and a ready-to-learn attitude.</p>	<p>Meeting a variety of people with different stories and opinions united by a passion for the Bridgeport community.</p>	<p>Committing to follow all COVID and safety Guidelines in place while working at Reservoir Community Farm.</p>
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INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUTH APPLICANTS

It is important to read this part carefully before filling out the rest of the application. Please write legibly if you are handwriting this. Please provide phone numbers and an email that you check and use regularly.

1. **We can ONLY accept up to 12 youth**, so please do your best on the application.
2. **You must do the application yourself.** No one else can do it for you.
3. **Complete EVERY part** of the application even if you are a *returning* youth.
4. **Detach the Letter of Support** and give it to an adult who knows you well to complete. They can NOT be a member of your family. This can be a teacher, coach, employer, minister, etc. **YOU** are responsible for collecting the letter of support and sending it back to us.
5. **Scan and email your application to youth@gogvi.org, mail it to the office, or fill it out online on our website at www.gogvi.org.** We will contact you directly if you qualify for an interview!
6. **This application is due no later than Friday, May 19th, 2023, at 5pm.**
7. Interviews will begin May 23rd, If you are scheduled for an interview, you **must come to your interview on time.**



Check off what describes you to see if you are right for this program.

- I live in Bridgeport or attend a Bridgeport High school.
- I will have completed 9th grade by June 20, 2023.
- On June 20, 2023 I will not have attended college.
- I will not be younger than 15 years old or older than 19 years old on June 20, 2023.
- I can attend the 2 day orientation on June 20th & 21st from 9am-2pm.
- I can work on the farm Tuesday - Friday from 7:30am-12:30pm and Saturdays from 9am - 2pm.
- I will not miss more than 4 days of work between June 20th and August 12th (unless I am unexpectedly sick or there is an emergency).
- I can work outdoors in the summer in all types of weather conditions for at least 3-4 hours. This includes direct sun, rain, high heat, bending, kneeling, lifting heavy objects, humidity, low temperatures, and windy days. *Note: We do not work outside during thunderstorms.*
- I am ready to get my hands dirty and do hard work with bugs and soil.
- I am able to lift at least 25 pounds and do not have conditions that would limit my ability to move, such as an injury, or consistent recurring pain in my body.
- I will not be enrolled in Summer School during the duration of the Summer Youth Summer Crew season (June 20th - August 12th.)
- I will invite my parent/ guardian to the program Open House (June 16th) and Graduation (August 12th)
- I will follow all of Green Village Initiative's COVID Guidelines while at Reservoir Community Farm or while representing GVI.

If you could not check off all of the boxes above, there may be other opportunities for you to get involved. Call us at 203-612-4107 to see how else you can be a part of GVI!

CONTACT INFORMATION			
Full Name:		Preferred Name: Pronouns:	
Email:		Home Address:	



Green Village Initiative

Phone #:			
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PERSONAL INFORMATION

Birthday & Year		Current School:	
Age:		Graduation Year:	
Languages You speak:		Languages you can write:	

PARENT INFORMATION

Parent/ Guardian Name		Parent/ Guardian Phone	
Relation to You		Parent/ Guardian Email	

How did you find out about the Youth Summer Crew? Have you applied before?

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Leadership

Please use the space below (or additional pages if desired) for your answers for the following questions. There are no right or wrong answers. Please write 2-4 sentences for each answer. More is always welcomed.

1. How do you define a "leader"?

2. Do you feel like you are a leader? Why or why not?

Name two ways that you show leadership in your life (Through sports, church, family, or at a job, etc. or not at all).

3. What's your favorite thing about Bridgeport?

Are you interested in learning more about our city, the City of Bridgeport?



4. How do you define your "community"?

5. Do you feel connected to your community?

Do you want to be?

6. Have you heard of the concept of Food Justice? What does it mean to you?

7. What is GVI's role in creating a just food system?



2023 YOUTH SUMMER CREW LETTER OF REFERENCE

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANT

- Detach this LETTER OF REFERENCE portion (pg 9-12) from your application.
- Ask an adult who knows you well to fill it out and complete it before, May 19th, 2023 5PM.
 - This can be a teacher, coach, employer, minister, etc. **However, it cannot be a member of your family**
- This Letter of Reference is a vital part of the application. **Applications will be considered incomplete without it.**
- **Application Deadline: Friday, May 19th, 2023 - 5PM**

Dear Reference,

Thank you for taking the time to provide your perspective & thoughts on why this youth will benefit from being a part of this program this summer. Please follow these steps:

1. Read the Youth Summer Crew Fact Sheet (pg 10)
2. Fill in the requested information and answer the questions pertaining to the youth
3. Return this form to the youth. They have been instructed to give this form to GVI as to take complete ownership of the application process.
4. Please answer these questions honestly based on your interactions with and knowledge of the youth applicant. Our hiring decisions are not made based on all "yes" answers. Rather, these recommendation questions are used by our team to gain a better understanding of the youth who are applying so that we can ensure we are equipped to provide the support and mentorship that our 2023 cohort will need.

If you have any questions, contact Robert Peck at 203.397.6945 or youth@gogvi.org.



[YOUTH SUMMER CREW FACT SHEET](#)

REFERENCE RESOURCE

What is Green Village Initiative?

Green Village Initiative is a non-profit in Bridgeport, whose mission is to grow food, knowledge, and leadership and community through urban gardening and farming, to create a more just food system in Bridgeport.

Youth Leadership in Action! | Youth Summer Crew

Every summer since 2012, youth have participated in growing vegetables at Reservoir Community Farm. Our Youth Leadership Program cultivates future leaders of farming and social change. Youth are a main aspect of our growing power each summer, helping us grow thousands of pounds of fresh produce for the Bridgeport community. This Green Village Initiative program engages youth in farming, while building their knowledge of food justice and boosting their leadership and job skills. This summer, up to 12 high school youth from Bridgeport will be hired as our Youth Summer Crew, working at Reservoir Community Farm for 8 weeks.

Who participates?

We will employ 12 Bridgeport youth, ages 15-19, for the 2023 program.

What do they do?

Youth work up to 26 hours each week (about 4- 5 hours a day) while participating in our youth leadership program. Youth will develop knowledge and skills including job readiness, leadership, food justice, and farming.



TO BE COMPLETED BY REFERENCE

Application Deadline: Monday, May 19th, 2023 5PM

Your Name: _____

Relationship to youth: _____ Organization: _____

Name of the youth: _____

Years you have known this young person: ____ Email: _____

Please be honest and accurate in your assessment of the youth’s abilities to help us build a well-rounded crew. There is no right answer to the questions on this form! We are looking for a desire to participate and learn from a unique experience of both physical labor and group activities.

1. How long have you known the applicant and in what context?

2. Please check the column that applies to your experience of the youth based on each statement:

	Yes	No	Unsure
They are mature and responsible			
They are respectful of others			
They are honest about their mistakes			
They show up on time when they are expected			
They receive constructive feedback well			
They are good at following directions			
They will bring a positive attitude to their work			
They thinks about and plans for his/her future			



They notice things that need to be done and volunteer to do them. (E.g a spill is left behind, someone drops their things.)			
They keep working even when no one is watching until their task is done			

Please use the space below (or additional pages if desired) to clarify your answers for the chart above if desired. For example, if you chose “No,” do you see this young person gradually improving in this area?

3. What area do you think this young person needs the most growth in to help them achieve their goals?

4. How would you describe this youth when they are working in a group?



5. What do you think are this young person's top two qualities?