



# Farm Educator Apprenticeship

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What Qualifications are necessary?

- Community-minded with an emphasis on intentional Jewish community experience
- Prepared to work long hours
- Excited to work at a summer camp with kids of all ages
- Interested in small-scale educational farming
- Self-motivated and can see projects through to the end
- Availability from April through October
- Interested in Jewish experiential education as a career path
- Committed to creating a more sustainable, loving earth
- Creative problem solver
- Ready to work in nature, regardless of weather conditions
- Demonstrate timeliness and attention to detail
- Open to developing programs and farm infrastructure
- Familiar with sustainable agriculture
- Passionate about food justice and Jewish community

### What is the difference between the Full Season Apprenticeship and the Summer Apprenticeship?

**The Summer Apprenticeship** is geared towards people who only have availability from June through August. They will be integrated into the farm staff with the Full Season Apprentices. They will be trained and work directly as our Farm Educators for our summer camp programming. While at camp they will also work on the farm and be assigned to chores. They will also receive additional learning opportunities throughout the summer. Prior hands-on education experience is required for the Summer Apprenticeship.

**The Full Season Apprenticeship** begins with living on-site from April through October, fully invested in every aspect of the farm and educational farm programming. Each apprentice will pick an independent project, which they will develop and oversee throughout the entire season. They will be closely guided by the staff and given many educational benefits as a farmer and educator. The Full Season Apprentices will also be the Farm Educators for our summer camp programming, similar to the Summer Apprenticeship. This group will also be involved in the organization of community life at Eden Village during the Spring and Fall.

### Farming is different depending on the season. What can I expect?

The apprenticeship is split up into three different seasons, each holding a specific purpose that relates to the whole experience:



## ***Spring:***

Focuses on training in Jewish farm based education and running a few different specific programs, such as our Farm and Forest Homeschool program, Public Sunday Programs and synagogue programs on the farm. There will also be focused farm work, which gives skill based practicality. Pick Independence projects for the season and begin to make plans and vision as well as maintenance work. Weekly Apprenticeship classes related to Jewish Environmental Pedagogy, Sustainable Agriculture, Judaism and Spirituality, and DIY skills. This is a community development period where the group will begin to form.

## ***Summer:***

Full integration into Eden Village Camp summer staff working on our Specialist crew as Farm Educators. Apprentices will be responsible for planning and implementing lessons for our Farm to Table programming, teaching kids age ranging from 8-16. Apprentices will also be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of all growing spaces as well as farm chores. Full and robust Jewish community is present at camp.

## ***Fall:***

Continue implementation and maintenance of Independent Projects such as creation of new farm educational elements, Orchard design, etc. Farm work includes fall harvests, cover cropping, seed saving, preservation, etc. Educators for our seasonal programs and festivals.

## **Where will I live?**

Eden Village Camp has great staff housing options with many dorm style cabins. Each room can house 2 -3 people with a shared bathroom.

## **What about food?**

Meals at Eden Village Camp are celebrated and talked about for days. The food is all organic, kosher, mostly vegetarian and as locally sourced as possible. Delicious! Part of the spring and fall season apprentices will enjoy cooking their own meals in our staff kitchen. During the Summer all meals are held in the Dining Hall with the rest of camp. There is an emphasis on apprentice participation in cooking and learning how to incorporate farm food into Jewish community living.

## **Do I get days off?**

The Apprenticeship is an immersive experience and is intended to facilitate personal and community growth and education. We also want to encourage rest and rejuvenation so people can participate fully in farm work and as educators. Jewish Farm School maintains Shabbat (Saturdays) as its day off once a week. Apprentices also will have an additional half day off per week. There is a rotation of the farm staff of weekend farm chore responsibilities.



## **I am Orthodox, can I live at Eden Village Camp?**

Jewish observance levels vary considerably among the Eden Village community. We are a pluralistic community, which means we work hard to accommodate all levels of observance. Our dining room is strictly kosher and Friday evening and Saturday is time off with the exception of rotating weekend farm chores responsibilities.

## **What about other benefits?**

We offer a modest stipend plus room and board.

## **What can I expect from a typical day on the farm during the Spring and Fall?**

In the Spring and Fall, the days are usually laid out in blocks of morning and afternoon:

7:00 *Avodat Lev* (morning spiritual practice)

7:30 Chores (ranging from chickens, milking goats, watering the greenhouse, and community responsibilities)

8:30 Breakfast

9:00 *Avodat Sadeh* as a whole staff (work on the farm)

12:30 Lunch

1:30 Split up to work on other projects around the farm such as the orchard, educational gardens, animal care

3:30 Planning time for upcoming programs

5:30 Class on Soil Fertility

6:45 Dinner

## **What are the days like during the Summer when camp is in session?**

You will have to work hard. The campers will ask a lot of you. The camp will ask a lot of you. You will ask a lot of you. We are looking for staff who are excited about this challenge. Camp isn't for everyone. You have to put your needs behind the children's and the camps for the entire summer. You have to be happy to eat with kids, teach kids and play with kids... that isn't something everyone is able to do, or able to be happy doing.

In the summer, the farm staff (which is around 10 people in the summer) will follow the schedule for Eden Village Camp which is in 1 hour blocks. Six days a week each educator will teach *an average of 3 farm classes per day* as well as independent farm work.



## **What kind of educator training is provided?**

- Training with Jewish farm-based education
- Practical field experience with all ages
- Lesson planning for informal educational settings
- Farm education best practices
- Educator for Farm-to-Table Program at Eden Village Camp
- Training in Jewish agricultural laws and how they are practiced at the Farm at Eden Village.
- Frequent Jewish learning sessions that involve interpreting traditional texts.

## **What sustainable agriculture training is provided?**

- Annual vegetable production
- Perennials
- Permaculture techniques
- Greenhouse production
- Biological soil and fertility management
- Animal husbandry
- Orchard management
- Tool maintenance
- Composting
- Crop planning
- and Beyond

## **What sort of lessons will I be teaching?**

Apprentices will be our main educators for our programs. Learn how to teach classes on a variety of topics under a Jewish lens including:

- Composting
- Cooking classes
- Winnowing and threshing wheat for bread baking
- Planting a tree
- Seed saving
- Social justice and Judaism
- Many, many more

Apprentices are also expected to add new curriculum to our growing resources each year.



## What kind of personal and professional development can I participate in?

- Access to Hudson Valley C.R.A.F.T., weekly seminars on organic, small-scale agriculture
- Network with organic and educational farms in the area
- Participate in Teva Seminar
- Contribute to fundraising events in New York City and on the farm.
- Other trainings and classes that are held at Eden Village Camp.

## What kinds of people come to Eden Village Camp?

- People from all over the country interested in food, agriculture and community and how it relates to their Judaism.
- Children ranging all ages excited to be immersed in the outdoors.
- The large summer staff of 120 young adults and professional educators.
- Synagogue groups from New York City and the surrounding area.
- Homeschooled children between the ages of 4 and 12.

## What is the community like surrounding Eden Village Camp? What is there to do?

The Hudson Valley of New York is a gem of the east coast. Eden Village is a 10 minute walk to the Appalachian trail and within driving distance to other beautiful lakes, streams and mountains. We are also a 15 minute drive to Cold Spring, NY which is a hub for tourists in the summer from the city. There are lots of shops and restaurants plus a direct train to New York City in about hour. Beacon, NY is also a 25 minute drive which offers many local attractions.

Some things not to miss:

- Stone Crop Botanical Garden, Cold Spring, NY
- DIA: Beacon, Beacon, NY
- Storm King, Newburgh, NY

## How do I apply?

Click [here](#) to fill out our staff application. Please specify whether you are applying for a Full-Season or Summer position.

## Who can I speak for additional questions?

Contact our Farm Director at [sarah@edenvillagecamp.org](mailto:sarah@edenvillagecamp.org)