



## Farm Educator Apprenticeship Frequently Asked Questions

### What Qualifications are Necessary?

- Community-minded with an emphasis on intentional Jewish community experience
  - Prepared for long working 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 mid-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

The **Farm Educator Apprenticeship** is a residential program that runs from mid-April through October. Each apprentice will have the opportunity to go deeper into different aspects of the farm and its programming throughout the season, taking on more ownership during the fall. In the summer, apprentices will be fully integrated into camp as farm educators. They will be closely guided by the staff and given many educational benefits as both farmers and educators.

### 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:** There will be a focus on training in Jewish farm based education, including planning and implementing several on-site programs, such as our weekly Farm Homeschool program, Sunday Public Programs, Book-the-Farm programs for synagogues and schools, as well as our annual weekend Family and Friends Camp. There will also be daily farm work, getting the crops seeded and planted for the summer, giving apprentices the opportunity to learn hands-on farm skills. Additionally they will delve more deeply into these fields through weekly classes on Jewish Environmental Pedagogy, Sustainable Agriculture, Judaism and Spirituality, and DIY skills.

**Summer:** Apprentices will be Farm Specialists fully integrated into the 120+ person summer staff. They will be responsible for planning and implementing lessons for our farm-based programming for kids ranging in age from 8-16. Apprentices will also be responsible for the



maintenance and upkeep of all growing spaces as well as farm chores. There will be a vibrant and robust Jewish community present at camp during this time.

**Fall:** Apprentices will continue to implement and maintain all farm and perennial spaces. They will participate in a group project of their choice where they will build skills in the farm-related field of their choosing. (e.g. in 2016, the Farm Apprentices, renovated our chicken coops and vastly improved our entire chicken operation). This project will allow for community building and interest-based learning as well as the opportunity for them to build skills in carpentry, art, animal care, etc. In addition to farming, apprentices will take on more leadership roles during our Fall programming, such as our Farm Homeschool program, our Sukkot Harvest Festival, and our numerous Book-the-Farm programs.

### **Where will I live?**

All Farm Educator Apprentices will live in a newly renovated shared cabin consisting of 4 rooms. Each of the 4 rooms has its own bathroom and can house 2-3 people. There are several common spaces around camp- the staff lounge is available for computer and printer use. In the Spring and Fall, apprentices will use the newly built apothecary for kitchen space.

### **What about food?**

Meals at Eden Village Camp are celebrated and talked about for days. The food is all organic, kosher, mostly vegetarian (during camp we eat chicken on Wednesday night and fish on Friday night.) and locally sourced. During the Spring and Fall seasons apprentices will enjoy cooking their own meals in our newly built apothecary kitchen. During the Summer, all meals are prepared and served in the Dining Hall with the rest of camp.

### **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. In the Spring and Fall, there will be a half day on Friday and a full day off on Saturday in addition to Jewish holidays. In the Summer, specialists (which include apprentices) will average one day off per week, usually on Saturdays.

### **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 chore and camp programming responsibilities.

### **What about other benefits?**

We offer a modest stipend plus room and board.

We also offer a camper/staff recruitment bonus incentive.

### **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 Farm Chores (ranging from chickens, milking goats, watering the greenhouse, and community responsibilities)  
7:30 Avodat Lev (morning spiritual practice)  
8:30 Breakfast  
9:00 Avodat Hasadeh as a whole staff (work on the farm)  
12:30 Lunch  
1:30 Break  
3:30 Planning time for upcoming programs  
6:30 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 follows the all camp schedule 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 do independent or group farm work. Farmers also participate in all-camp programming, such as night activities, all-staff weekly meetings, meals, and special camp days.

### **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
- Sustainable Farming curriculum development
- Training in Jewish agricultural laws and how they are practiced at the Farm at Eden Village.
- Jewish learning sessions that involve interpreting traditional texts.

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

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



- Crop planning
- Preservation and Fermentation

### **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
- Winnowing and threshing wheat for bread baking
- Tree Planting
- Seed Saving
- Social Action 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
- Mentorship from an incredible group of year round Eden Village staff, Hazon's Adamah program leaders, and local partners and friends
- 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, artists, musicians, and more.

### **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 you are applying for the Farm Educator Apprenticeship.

**Who can I speak for additional questions?**

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