



FARM EDUCATOR APPRENTICESHIP

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Farm Educator Apprenticeship?

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

What Qualifications are Necessary?

- Availability from mid-April through October
- Interested in small-scale educational farming
- Excited to work at a summer camp with kids of all ages
- Ready to work in nature, familiar with sustainable agriculture
- Community-minded, with an emphasis on intentional Jewish community experience
- Self-motivated and can see projects through to the end
- Demonstrate timeliness and attention to detail
- Passionate about food justice, committed to a more sustainable, loving earth
- Creative problem solver
- Open to developing programs and farm infrastructure

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 for apprentices and for the farm.

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, Book-the-Farm programs for outside groups, as well as our annual weekend Family and Friends Camp. There will also be daily animal and compost chores and farm work, getting the crops seeded and planted for the summer, and learning hands-on farm skills. Apprentices will delve more deeply into these fields through weekly classes in areas of their interest, which have included topics from Sustainable Agriculture and Pest Management to Jewish Environmental Pedagogy and teaching Jewish Values through fermentation.

Summer: Apprentices will be Farm Specialists, fully integrated into the 100+ person summer staff. They will be responsible for planning and implementing lessons for our farm-based programming for children ranging in age from 8-16. Apprentices will continue sharing farm chores, and work with farm staff to maintain all growing spaces. There will be a vibrant and diverse 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 can build skills ranging from animal care to carpentry or art, and contribute to the farm in the field of their choosing. For example, in 2016 the Farm Apprentices renovated our chicken coops and vastly improved our entire chicken operation. In addition to farming, apprentices will take on more leadership roles during our Fall programming, such as our Farm Homeschool program, Fall Community Work Day, and 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 four 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. Camp also has a wi-fi network. In the Spring and Fall, apprentices will use the newly built Farmer's Kitchen and 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 participate in a community cooking rotation. 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 balance rest and rejuvenation with personal and community growth. In the Spring and Fall, there will be a half day on Fridays 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. There will be a post-camp break before the beginning of our Fall season, and one and a half-day weekends throughout the Fall.

I am an Orthodox Jew--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 and limited camp programming responsibilities. We are flexible and understanding, so please do reach out if you have questions about observance at camp.

What about other benefits?

We offer a modest stipend plus room and board. Apprentices are provided housing in heated cabins, separate from campers. There is a communal kitchen available on-site with organic, kosher, and seasonal food available. Staff shares the responsibilities cooking during spring and fall. During summer months, all meals will be prepared by dedicated kitchen staff. 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 (i.e. feeding chickens, milking goats, & watering the greenhouse/field)
- 7:30 Avodat Lev (morning spiritual practice)
- 8:00 Breakfast
- 9:00 Work on Farm as a Team
- 12:30 Lunch
- 1:30 Break
- 2:30 Planning time for upcoming programs
- 5:30 Break
- 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 summer. You have to be happy to eat with kids, teach kids and play with kids, and we understand that isn't something everyone is able to do, or able to be happy doing. We are here to support you, and build up to the summer with you from Day 1.

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 2 farm classes per day as well as do independent or group farm work. Farmers also participate in all-camp programming, such as all-staff weekly meetings, meals, and special camp days.

What kind of educator training is provided?

- Sustainable Farming curriculum development
- Practical field experience with all ages
- Lesson planning for informal educational settings, with a Library of successful programs
- Nonviolent communication and public speaking techniques
- Farm education best practices
- Training with Jewish farm-based education, and relevant Jewish values and texts.

What sustainable agriculture training is provided?

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



Crop planning
Preservation & Fermentation

What sort of lessons will I be teaching?

Apprentices will be our main educators for our programs. Apprentices are also expected to add new curriculum to our growing resources each year. Learn how to teach classes on a variety of topics under a Jewish lens including:

- Composting
- Winnowing and threshing wheat for bread baking
- Fermentation
- Vegetable, flower, and tree Planting
- Direct seeding and Seed Saving
- Harvesting and cooking
- Social Action and Judaism
- Many, many more

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, including Glynnwood and the Stone Barns Center.
- 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.
- Trainings and classes 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 of all ages, excited to be immersed in the outdoors.
- 100+ young adults and professional educators come from around the world to staff camp.
- Educational groups of all ages 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 quaint hub for summer tourists. There are lots of shops and restaurants plus a direct train to New York City in about hour. Beacon, NY, which offers many local attractions, artists, musicians, and restaurants, is just 25 minute drive.

Some things not to miss:

- Stone Crop Botanical Garden, Cold Spring, NY
- DIA: Beacon Museum, Beacon, NY

Eden Village Camp



For a Healthy, Sustainable World

Storm King Sculpture Garden, Newburgh, NY
Beautiful hikes throughout the area

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 Chelsea Taxman, our Farm Director at chelsea@edenvillagecamp.org