CULINARY & EVENTS INTERN

About Countryside

Our mission is to connect people, food and land by promoting a resilient, sustainable food culture through programs, advocacy and education. We are a leading expert and innovator in conservation farming and community-based food programs, working in partnership with Cuyahoga Valley National Park, its farms, community stakeholders, and food entrepreneurs.

About Countryside Farmers' Markets

As an outgrowth of the Countryside Initiative farm program, we began managing farmers' markets in 2004 and now operate 3 markets. 2020 is our seventeenth season in Cuyahoga Valley National Park, and our sixteenth season in Akron. The markets collectively generate over $1M in annual sales and serve over 50,000 customers each year. Our markets are producer-only; vendors are required to be growing, producing or making the products offered at the markets.

The purposes of Countryside Farmers' Markets are three-fold:

- Provide a venue where local farmers, producers, artisans, and artists can sell their high-quality products directly to the consumer.
- Connect consumers with a wide array of locally grown and produced foods and goods in a setting that allows them to interact directly with the grower or producer, thereby re-connecting them directly to the source of their food.
- Create a space that allows for community interaction and enjoyment, informal public education and civic engagement.

Essential Duties

- Countryside Farmers' Market at Howe Meadow will host weekly cooking demonstrations: Cooking with Countryside, to engage and inspire customers relative to in-season produce and market products. Cooking with Countryside recipes/methods should be simple and easy, requiring only basic knowledge of cooking and basic kitchen equipment. Recipes/methods should highlight the bounty of the current season, with a focus on lesser known produce varieties and other products.
- Provide on and off-site support for seasonal events at markets, including coordinating materials, gathering supplies, setting up and executing events, with assistance and supervision of market management.

On-Site: Cooking Demonstrations and Events – 70%

- Purchase market products to be utilized in weekly cooking demonstrations
- Prepare signage for Countryside cooking booth to highlight ingredients and producers
- Prepare and sample dishes to market customers
- Assist with event set up and tear down
- In conjunction with managers and volunteers, interact and engage with market customers at market events
- Other duties as assigned

Off-Site: Demonstration and Event Coordination – 15%

- Select or develop recipes for Saturday demonstrations
• Coordinate with market management regarding recipe development and selection of seasonal produce
• Maintain inventory of pantry, communicating with market management if items are low or required
• Maintain inventory of demonstration and sampling supplies, communicating with market management if items are low or required
• Coordinate with vendors for products required for upcoming demonstrations
• Wash dishes and prepare tote for next market
• Gather and prepare necessary supplies for market events
• Other duties as assigned

Cooking Demonstration and Event Marketing Tasks – 15%
• Prepare information for inclusion in weekly e-news and for social media posts
• Prepare recipes for printing/distribution at market
• Other duties as assigned.

Key Skills
• Culinary experience preferred, including cooking in a home kitchen.
• Passion for local food and sustainable agriculture, with an emphasis on seasonality.
• Outgoing personality, with an approachable, patient and informative communication style.
• Independent work ethic.

Schedule Requirements
• This is a part-time seasonal position: up to, but not to exceed 10 hours per week. Position runs late April through October.
• Must be available Saturdays, 8am-12:30pm. Additional hours are flexible.

Additional Qualifications
• Must be willing to do physical work and be capable of lifting objects ~50 lbs.
• Interest and background in nutrition is a plus.
• Marketing experience is a plus

Compensation
• $10.10/hour.

To Apply
Send a one-page cover letter, one-page resume and three references to Serena Jones, Farmers’ Market Manager, at sjones@cvcountryside.org. Applications are accepted until position is filled.