Compost Internship

Do you want to learn more about where your food comes from? Are you curious about how to manage food waste, such as uneaten leftovers? The Sustainable Agriculture Project at GVSU offers rewarding internships that expose students to practical, hands-on knowledge while encouraging creativity.

Position Summary:

The Compost Intern will learn to facilitate the decomposition of waste materials, including the operation of a vermicompost system, to assist the SAP in its goal of overall sustainability. The successful applicant will research and practice varying methods of compost management, fostering an understanding of sustainable agriculture and the natural world.

Qualifications:
- ➔ Commitment to fully utilize the internship as a learning experience
- ➔ Interest in food systems and sustainable practices
- ➔ Tolerant of working outside in all weather conditions
- ➔ Previous agricultural experience is useful, but not required
- ➔ All majors are welcome to apply

Special Project Opportunity:

Interns will have the opportunity to pursue independent research projects to enrich their academic experience, such as:
- ➢ Analysis of compost marketing and distribution
- ➢ Comparative analysis of industrial and small-scale composting systems
- ➢ Benefit-cost analysis of composting
- ➢ Food waste management in healthcare and other fields
- ➢ Farm soil quality analyses
- ➢ Insect surveying and pest monitoring
- ➢ Community event organization
- ➢ Other projects are possible depending upon the intern's interests

Interns Will Learn to:
- ❖ Demonstrate an understanding of composting as part of sustainable food systems
- ❖ Describe the importance of agriculture in the economy
- ❖ Recognize systems thinking and/or design thinking in processes
- ❖ Follow all appropriate food safety procedures
- ❖ Analyze the strengths and limitations of small-scale farming

Note: This is a for-credit, unpaid internship opportunity.

- ❖ Apply appropriate tools and technology for sustainable agriculture

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