



farmsanctuary

Internship

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About the Internship

IMPORTANT NOTES

All interns must be 18 or older.

All internships are three months in length. Our summer internship program is June 1 – August 31. Our fall internship program is September 1 – November 30. Our spring internship program is March 1 – May 31.

Upon acceptance into the program, all onsite interns are required to pay a \$150 housing security deposit. If no damage is done to the house, this deposit will be refunded upon program completion.

1

What types of internships are available?

Internship opportunities vary throughout the year, but are available in a variety of departments including Animal Care, Communications, Education, Events & Experience, and Legal. Specific responsibilities, locations, and qualifications vary by department. For more information, please check the description of the position for which you are applying.

2

Where are internships available?

Farm Sanctuary currently offers internships remotely and in Watkins Glen, NY. Our Watkins Glen shelter is nestled in the Finger Lakes region of central New York and borders the Sugar Hill State Forest, offering ample opportunities for hiking and exploring.

3

When can I intern at Farm Sanctuary?

Below are the internship blocks we offer. Interns must be able to commit to the full duration of the internship program.

Spring March 1 – May 31 | Summer: June 1 – August 31 | Fall: Sept. 1 – November 30

Summer is our most popular season for internships, so if you are not accepted for a summer internship, we encourage you to apply for a different season.

4

How long is a Farm Sanctuary internship?

All Farm Sanctuary internships are three months in length. We believe this gives interns time to adjust, learn, and grow together as a cohort. Interns must be able to commit to the full duration of the internship program. If you are unable to commit to three months, we encourage you to visit our Volunteer page to learn more about our short-term opportunities instead.

5

How many days per week do interns work?

Interns work a full-time schedule (40 hours a week). Some interns may be on a five day, eight-hour schedule, while others may be on a four day, ten-hour schedule. Scheduling varies depending on the department the intern is interning in.

6

Who interns at Farm Sanctuary?

Individuals intern at Farm Sanctuary for a variety of reasons. Most of our interns are interested in learning more about nonprofit work, seeking a career in animal protection, or wishing to start a Sanctuary of their own one day. Our internship structure is geared towards individuals interested in career development and broadening their professional skillset. We've had interns from all over the United States, as well as from Canada, Europe, Asia, Africa, and South America.* Some interns come to Farm Sanctuary as long-time vegans, but others are completely new to veganism and are trying it for the first time. We welcome all levels of vegan living experience, as long as applicants are willing to commit to a vegan lifestyle during their internship. Interns must be 18 or older.

**Interns are responsible for having legal authorization to work in the United States. Farm Sanctuary is not able to sponsor visas at this time.*

7

Do I have to be vegan to intern at Farm Sanctuary?

Out of respect for the animals and the work that Farm Sanctuary does, all staff and interns are required to be vegan while on sanctuary premises. If you're new to veganism, don't be intimidated! Farm Sanctuary is a great, supportive environment to try out a vegan lifestyle. Our staff is more than happy to provide tips, recipes, and meal ideas. Vegan living includes diet (no meat, dairy products, eggs, honey, or other animal byproducts), personal-care items (cruelty-free and no animal byproducts), and clothing (no leather, silk, or wool).

8

What educational opportunities are provided?

We are thrilled to be able to offer our interns a full education day each week. While our internship positions are immersive and there are many skills that interns learn on the job, we like to offer interns the ability to dive deeper into academic content in a classroom setting. The following is a list of activities that interns may see on an education day: staff Q&As, hands-on shadowing opportunities, group activities, presentations on topics pertaining to broad vegan issues, and presentations on topics specific to their internship (for example: Animal Care interns will receive presentations on Farmed Animal Anatomy, Farmed Animal Nutrition, Common Health Concerns in Farmed Animals, etc.)





Applying for an Internship

1

When should I submit my application?

We open up applications for the following internship season several months before the next program starts. For example, our summer internship program runs June 1st to August 31st, and we begin recruiting for our summer internships in December. We include an Application Deadline on our internship postings, and only candidates who apply during that window will be considered.

2

When will I hear about the status of my internship application?

The application screening process generally takes about a month or two. We do our best to meet the following schedule. Summer interns will know if they have been selected by February 1st. Fall interns will know if they have been selected by June 1st. Spring interns will know if they have been accepted by January 1st. That said, there are times when this timeline may shift a bit. We appreciate your flexibility and understanding during those times. Although we are not able to accept all applicants, we are very appreciative of everyone's interest and enthusiasm in our internship programs.





During your Internship

1

What type of clothing do I need?

Clothing suggestions differ depending on the season of your internship and what kind of internship you are participating in. Animal Care interns who work primarily outdoors should prepare for either warm clothes (in the fall/winter months) or light layers (during the summer). Layers are encouraged year-round so that you can adjust accordingly throughout the day. We encourage Animal Care interns to dress in clothing that is comfortable and that they are willing to get dirty. Interns who are participating in office-based internships should follow the dresscode outlined in the employee handbook.

2

What do I eat during my internship?

Interns are responsible for buying and preparing their own food. For internships where housing is provided, weekly trips to the grocery store are offered for interns without vehicles. Typically, on-site interns will be provided lunch from a local restaurant once a week. Intern housing includes a full kitchen stocked with pots and pans, utensils, and other basic kitchen equipment. All interns are required to eat vegan while on sanctuary premises, which includes intern housing.

3

What will my schedule be like?

Intern schedules and hours will vary depending on department. Every intern works 40 hours a week. Animal Care interns work four, 10-hour days a week. Their days off are Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Internships in other departments are typically Monday through Friday with weekends off. Because of the nature of some departments, such as Events & Experience, interns may participate in events or tours that happen on the weekend which mean their days off may not fall on Saturday and Sunday.

4

What level of internet and cell phone service is available at the Watkins Glen, NY sanctuary?

Each intern house is set up with wireless internet service; speed and strength of connection will vary depending upon how many people are using it any given time, and bandwidth may not necessarily be able to handle streaming. Cell phone service is limited, and varies depending upon your network carrier and your location on the sanctuary premises.

5

What do interns at the sanctuary typically do on their days off?

Interns who live on-site are welcome to spend their days off as they see fit. The Finger Lakes region of New York offers many outdoor attractions and activities within driving distance of the sanctuary. Interns who prefer to stay on-site on their days off are welcome to spend time with the animal residents, or take a book out from our small library of vegan and animal protection oriented literature.

6

Will I learn how to medicate the animals during my shelter internship?

As an intern you may have opportunities to observe healthcare procedures, but interns are never trained or authorized to medicate or perform healthcare treatments on the animals. These tasks are handled by one of our staff of caregivers.

7

Does Farm Sanctuary offer school credit?

Please check with your school about specific requirements for obtaining school credit for your Farm Sanctuary internship. Our ability to offer school credit may vary depending on school expectations. Interns are not guaranteed school credit; we assess our ability to provide school credit on a case-by-case basis depending on each school's requirements.

Additional Questions?

For questions about our Internship Program,
please email intern@farmsanctuary.org

To Apply

To apply for a Farm Sanctuary internship, fill out our online
application found at farmsanctuary.org/internships



