



Maine Coast Heritage Trust

A Statewide Land Conservation Organization

70 Russell Ave.
Rockport, ME 04861
207-236-2739

January, 2012

Dear Teen Ag Crew Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the Teen Ag Crew (TAg Crew)! The TAg Crew is a small group of teens (ages 14-18) working together in an agricultural setting at the Erickson Fields Preserve, part of Maine Coast Heritage Trust and Aldermere Farm. Teens will work growing crops and small livestock products for food pantries, the food bank, and for local sale. In the past the TAg crew has raised vegetables, herbs, and poultry – though ruminants such as goats or cattle are also possible as part of a business plan. The crew participates in guiding what is grown through initial business planning and decision making. The crew then grows food on approximately ½ acre of farmland, and also helps maintain the community garden area where educational programs teaching both children and adults some of the basics of growing food will occur. The crew is responsible for preparing the soil, planting the seeds and seedlings, caring for the plants as they grow, harvesting the vegetables, cleaning and packing them, and helping get them to their intended market. Sometimes the market is the local food pantry or larger foodbank, a soup kitchen, or the high school lunch program. If animal husbandry is part of the business plan, TAg crew will also care for the animals. Teens will learn all the basics of growing food and caring for the land on which they are growing.

No previous farming experience is necessary, but applicants should be able to demonstrate ability and desire to work hard in an outdoor setting. Strong organizational skills and self-motivation are also preferred. Applicants should be able to stay on task with minimal supervision. This job experience will be particularly beneficial to students interested in agricultural careers, land preservation, outdoor education, ecology, biology, or botany and will provide the opportunity for a meaningful work experience and references.

This job begins in mid-April, running two afternoons per week after school until the summer when you will work 32-40 hours per week. Fall hours revert back part-time on two afternoons until mid October when the last frost occurs. The wage for this job is \$7.50/hour.

To apply, please submit the following

1. A cover letter stating who you are, why you're interested in the Teen Ag Crew, any community service you have participated in, and why you would be a good candidate. This should be 1-2 paragraphs long.
2. A resume listing all your relevant experiences. These don't have to be paid jobs, but can be school and community service projects as well. We are especially interested in outdoor work experiences.

3. A copy of your last grade report.
4. Three references that correspond to your resume.
5. Your answers, in 200 words or less each, to the following three questions:
 - Describe the hardest physical work you have ever had to do. How did you deal with the challenges it presented you?
 - Describe a time you worked as part of a team. What conflicts arose, and how did you help to resolve the problem?
 - Describe a time when you had to accomplish a long-term project on your own, with minimal supervision. How did you organize and motivate yourself to get it done?
 - How would this job experience contribute to your personal or career goals?

These materials can be emailed to hhalsey@mcht.org or mailed to Aldermere Farm, 70 Russell Avenue, Rockport, ME 04856. If sent by email, please submit the documents as MS Word docs or PDF files (we cannot open Pages docs). We look forward to reading your application. **These materials are due by March 2th.** Good luck!

Sincerely,

Heather Halsey, Community Program Manager

