



Internship Overview and Application

Guidelines also apply to Biodynamic Association Apprenticeship Program

Greetings to You!

Spikenard Farm Honeybee Sanctuary is an absolutely special place to work, learn, and grow. We take our interns and apprentices very seriously—the utmost care, communication, and guidance are what we strive for in support of our “worker bees”. We have a small staff, but a large responsibility, and so we put our emphasis on honesty, integrity, quality, enthusiasm, and conscious attention to the needs of our Sanctuary. The bees call us to serve our higher ideals with a warm heart, a powerful will, and clear thinking—all requirements for true service. These are strivings that we seek to consciously place before our staff so that we may learn and serve the honeybee together in mutual support.

We are in the process of building up our Honeybee Sanctuary on 25 acres in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. We have established annual and perennial bee forage, a vegetable garden, an orchard, a pollinator plant nursery, 7 different bee hive styles, campgrounds, woodland, and pastures. The honeybee and her surrounding environment are in a mutually beneficial relationship—they are truly one—and therefore a great amount of the daily work is not only with the bees themselves (the work with them is dictated by the season and the weather), but rather with sowing, planting, bed-making, mowing, weeding, harvesting, dead-heading, and creating compost. The work that serves the social aspect of the Sanctuary includes workshop support, volunteer coordination, open day tours, event planning, fundraising, and the preparation and sale of products.

A study of Rudolf Steiner's lectures on agriculture, deeper explanations of biodynamic principles, and all the workshops and training sessions offered by Spikenard Farm are included in the internship. The monetary value of these opportunities should not be overlooked. Working with and making the biodynamic preparations is also part of the learning experience.

We also offer:

- * very good lodging in a double-wide trailer adjacent to the farm
- * food from the vegetable garden and orchard
- * a monthly stipend

We work 5 1/2 days in the Sanctuary, but many weekends have classes or other events going on, in which the interns are expected to participate. The workday fluctuates between 8 and 9 hours.

What is expected of an intern:

- * a strong work ethic and inner responsibility
- * social capacity to work together with others
- * a deep interest in the bees
- * an interest in biodynamic agriculture
- * an interest in spiritual aspects of life and nature

Duration of internship is from March-Dec 2017, however the timing and length of stay can be negotiated as necessary.

Application Requirements:

- Please write us a letter of intention including answers to the following questions:
 - Explain how you would contribute to the Sanctuary as an intern, why you are interested in this internship, and how it fits into your future plans?
 - How do you meet the qualifications for the position?
 - Do you have any potential obligations or plans that would keep you from fulfilling this commitment in its entirety?
 - Do you have any past experiences that you can share that are relevant to this internship?
 - What is the hardest job you've ever done, and why?
- 3 personal or employment references, with a letter of recommendation from one of these

Thank you for your interest in working with us! If you have questions, please email us at info@spikenardfarm.org, or give us a call at 540.745.2153.