

The logo for Spikenard Farm Honeybee Sanctuary features the text "SPIKENARD FARM" in a serif font, with a green leaf icon positioned between the words. Below this, the words "HONEYBEE SANCTUARY" are written in a similar serif font.

SPIKENARD FARM
HONEYBEE SANCTUARY

Internship Overview and Application

Updated and posted December 31, 2018

Spikenard Farm Honeybee Sanctuary, a non-profit organization, is a unique place to work, learn, and grow. One of the important aspects of our mission is education, so we take the students and interns very seriously—the utmost care, communication, and guidance are what we strive for. We have a small staff, but a large responsibility; honesty, integrity, quality, enthusiasm, and conscious attention to the needs of the Sanctuary are very important for us. The bees call us to serve our higher ideals with a warm heart, a good will, and clear thinking—all requirements for true service.

Over the last 9 years we have built and developed this beautiful 41 acres in the Blue Ridge Mountains establishing annual and perennial bee forage, pollinator forest, vegetable gardens, orchards, pollinator plant nursery, campgrounds, woodland, and pastures. We started with a small garden shed and greenhouse, and today we have a variety of beautiful timber frame structures that serve for classes, woodwork and all necessary bee-equipment work. The honeybee and her surrounding environment are in a mutually beneficial relationship—they are truly one—and therefore a great amount of the daily tasks and lessons are 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 workshops, events preparation, welcoming visitors, and from time to time some help in the office with outreach and products needs.

A study of Rudolf Steiner's lectures on agriculture, deeper explanations of biodynamic principles, and many of 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:

- * good lodging in a double-wide trailer adjacent to the farm
- * food from the vegetable garden
- * A monthly stipend of \$160

We work 5 days/week in the Sanctuary, but many Saturdays have classes or other events going on, which the interns will help to coordinate and support. An average workday is about 8 hours

What is expected of an intern:

- * a strong work ethic and sense of 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 ~3 months, with possibilities between May-October 2019. The concrete 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 expectations for this position?
 - Do you have any potential obligations or plans that would keep you from fulfilling this commitment in its entirety? Which ~3-month period is best for you within the aforementioned time-frame? What would be your second choice?
 - 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 two of these

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