**Sustainability Semester**

**Summer Garden Internship**

**Internship Description:** The Sustainability Semester is an off-campus residential program of St. Lawrence University that immerses students in the study of sustainability issues in our modern world. Through theoretical and hands on exploration, we aim to move towards a way of life that allows us to live well without degrading the ecological, social and economic systems on which future generations will rely. A part of that mission involves growing some of our own food in ways that promote ecosystem health, build vibrant soils, and nourish us. While the Sustainability Semester site houses students during the fall and spring semesters, much of our work on the farm will take place during the summer. We are offering an internship opportunity to work alongside the program’s Homesteader in Residence (HIR) to produce, preserve, and store food for the following year.

Interns will be an integral part of day to day farm operations. Through hands on work you will learn how to plan a small farm, start seedlings, transplant and seed into garden beds, manage soil fertility with compost and cover crops, operate a walk-behind tractor to till the soil, manage common garden pests with organic methods, harvest a wide variety of vegetables, and much more. Because we are not producing food to sell at a market, much of our time will be devoted to preserving the food we harvest, and interns will become competent in many forms of food preservation including: drying, water bath canning, pressure canning, root cellaring, freezing and fermenting. We will also be raising chickens for meat and eggs and interns will be involved with daily care for these animals. Beyond vegetables and animals we will also be growing small plots of grains, such as wheat, corn, and rye, and tending to our perennial fruit and nut trees.

**Qualifications:** We want to provide internships for St. Lawrence University students with an enthusiasm and interest in small scale farming and homesteading skills. No experience in farming or gardening is required, but a willingness to learn and perform all kinds of tasks is required. Ability to carry out and enjoy physical labor for 8 hours a day is a must, as is a love of being outdoors in all kinds of weather. You must be kind, respectful and empathetic of others, and you should want to laugh and have fun while working and learning here!

**Number of positions:** Two.

**Duration:** 10 weeks beginning Monday, June 1st, plus 1 week off. End date August 14.

**Work hours:** 40 hours a week, generally following a typical 8-5 work day Monday – Friday. Small farmers are often at the mercy of the weather, and the HIR may ask for occasional longer days or some weekend hours. Every third weekend you will be responsible for chores: feeding and watering animals, opening and closing cold frames, water plants, etc.

**Stipend:** $2000 (plus room and partial board)

**Room & Board:** The Sustainability Semester will provide a private (you may have a roommate) room and use of the program house for interns during the summer. We also provide partial board in the form of full access to garden produce, fresh eggs from our chickens, and bulk staples (flour, oats, beans, peanut butter, etc.

**Transportation:** While transportation is not strictly required for this position, it may be nice to have a car to be able to access the nearby towns and outdoor recreation opportunities. The grocery store and SLU campus are within biking distance (on a two-lane highway).

**How to apply:** Submit a resume and a cover letter describing your interest and qualifications for the job to Sherrie Kelly in the Outdoor Studies office, by Monday, March 23.