

Green Corps Students Share Their Experiences

Green Corps, the Garden's urban agriculture work-study program for high school students in the city, received 144 applications for 30 new positions in 2011. The program invited 45 students from 2010 to return in 2011, as well. Green Corps is going strong and the students are looking forward to another fun and productive year. Two returning students tell us why they came back and what they are getting out of the program.



Gary Baldwin, 17, Whitney Young High School, third-year Green Corps employee at Cleveland Botanical Garden
Why did you decide to return to Green Corps this year?

Because of the friends I made, to grow more food to eat, and to learn new things about gardening and plants.

Last year, what did you grow in your own plot? Are you going to make any changes this year?

I had a couple of sunflowers, lots of tomatoes, carrots, greens and Swiss chard. I am going to plant the same things again. My Grandma loves the greens and tomatoes. I taught her how to make fried green tomatoes.

Editor's Note: At the end of each day during the season, Green Corps students are asked to share their daily highlight (rose) and lowlight (thorn).

Thinking over all of last season, what is your "rose" when it comes to Green Corps?

The best part of Green Corps is that it's really fun. It's hard work, but it's fun. It's good to see that work can be fun. We get paid for learning new things.

What is your "thorn" when it comes to Green Corps?

I wouldn't say anything.

Have you given any thought to what you will do after high school and will Green Corps contribute anything to those plans?

I'm going to the University of Toledo to study communications. The public speaking and presenting that we had to do as part of the program and at market, and the people skills we learned, will help me.



Sholande Anderson, 16, is homeschooled in Cleveland, and is a second-year Green Corps employee working at the Slavic Village Learning Farm.
Why are you returning to Green Corps?

Because it was a beautiful experience. It taught me to look differently at things, like foods and the way I judge them, sewer pollution, littering and the importance of keeping the environment clean.

Last year, what did you grow in your own plot? Are you going to make any changes this year?

Cherry tomatoes, cucumbers, strawberries, dill, lettuce, cabbage, sweet peppers and greens. This year I'm going to plant more flowers — daisies, lilies, clematis. I thought it was exciting, trimming and dead-heading them.

Did you know anything about gardening before Green Corps?

Absolutely not. Oh, I knew how to weed.

Thinking over all of last season, what is your "rose" when it comes to Green Corps?

I learned so much! I always say you can't learn too much with great people.

What is your "thorn" when it comes to Green Corps?

It was always hot . . . and that it (the program) ended.

Would you like to say anything else?

I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity.

Green Corps On-Site Farm Stands

A vital part of the Green Corps program's mission is to provide a source of healthy, local food to the Cleveland community. Green Corps will host on-site farm stands at its Learning Farm locations throughout the summer.

Esperanza Learning Farm Stand

2922 W. 25th St., Cleveland, Ohio 44113
Thursdays, June 3 – October 27
2:00 – 6:00 pm

Midtown Learning Farm Stand

1945 E. 66th St., Cleveland, Ohio 44103
Thursdays, June 3 – October 27
Noon – 5:00 pm

Buckeye Learning Farm Stand

11305 Woodland Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44104
Tuesdays, June 7 – October 25
Noon – 6:00 pm

Lonnie Burten Learning Farm Stand

2511 E. 46th St., Cleveland, Ohio 44104
Tuesdays, June 7 – October 25
Noon – 6:00 pm

Fairfax Learning Farm Stand

E 79th St., between Cedar and Quincy
Cleveland, Ohio 44104
Wednesdays, June 8 – October 26
Noon – 6:00 pm

Slavic Village Learning Farm Stand

5406 Fleet Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44105
Wednesdays, June 8 – October 26
Noon – 6:00 pm

*on-site farm stands' are subject to change.

