



Greencorps Chicago Green Industry Job Training

Each spring, Greencorps Chicago accepts 70 Chicago residents into its Green Industry Job training program. One of the first of its kind for the green industry, Greencorps Chicago provides field and classroom experience in four technical areas: landscaping and horticulture, environmental health and safety, electronics recycling, and weatherization. Professional development, life and academic skills are integrated into the training season over the twelve month season.

The training program begins with classroom instruction. The classroom setting allows for more than sitting in class, it gives the trainee time to work on skills, techniques and procedures to become better prepared for green industry jobs. The classroom experience also builds confidence and allows for a more complete assessment of a trainee's abilities. Classroom participation includes professional communication, conflict resolution, academic enhancement in reading and math, critical thinking, resume writing, mock interviews and job preparation.

Field training allows the trainees to apply what they have learned in the classroom. Skills learned in the field include basic carpentry, horticulture principles, plant identification, tree care, electronics recycling and computer building, environmental health and safety, and home weatherization. Working in Chicago's community gardens allows trainees to practice and engage with Chicago residents planting side by side with community organizations such as block clubs and school groups.

This program welcomes all city residents to apply. Candidates must be 18 years of age or older, a city resident, able to lift 50 lbs, pass drug screening, and have an interest in the environment. Historically, Greencorps Chicago has recruited trainees from partnering social service agencies that serve underemployed and unemployed. This program is open to ex-offenders.

A program of the city government, Greencorps Chicago's Green Industry Job Training program is a twelve month long paid job training program within the Department of Environment. Established in 1994, Greencorps Chicago has trained and educated over 300 graduates. Greencorps Chicago's mission is to promote environmental stewardship and improve the quality of life by establishing natural spaces that are safe, healthy and sustainable through hands on involvement with trainees and community partners.

To obtain an application for any of our services, or for more information, please call (312) 744-8691 or e-mail us at greencorps@cityofchicago.org.

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