Knoll Summer Intern Position Description DRAFT Draft 1/19/2021

Please note that much of our summer programming remains unclear at this time. We are sharing this draft as a way for students to get a sense of the position as it has been posted in the past, with the hope that summer programming might continue as in previous years. We will post more updated information here when we have it.

## Mission of the Program:

The Knoll's mission is to explore food as a medium to cultivate well-being in people, place, and the planet. In doing so, our work begins with understanding and dismantling oppression, with particular attention to the racism, land theft, cultural erasure, and colonial supremacy that built our food system and remain at the fore. We commit to creating access for people who have been barred access from the freedom to choose whether, and how, to engage with agriculture and the land. We aim to broaden understanding of the political, historical, and cultural frameworks and hegemonies, including white supremacy, that have built our predominant narratives and understandings of the food system and our landscape. These are some of our aspirational goals; we recognize limitations of the site and our programs (e.g., the Knoll is not an ADA accessible site and the college lacks a formal land acknowledgment) and how they frame participation. We hold it as our active responsibility to address them in our ever-evolving maintenance of the Knoll as a place for students and the community. Step into this ongoing evolution with us.

The Knoll is comprised of the Educational Garden, the Outdoor Kitchen and the Serenity Garden. The Educational Garden's 1 acre grows diversified vegetables and fruits and supports student and faculty research. We aim to test theories and develop techniques that move us toward sustainability, regeneration, and resilience.

Time Commitment: The summer internship spans 15 or 16 weeks. Work weeks will be 35 hours/week from the start of summer until approximately Friday, 7/2; from there we will reduce our schedule to 30 hours/week until the close of summer. Due to weather, events, and the season's needs, occasional additional hours may be requested. Some weekend hours are also expected in organizing a weekend watering schedule and for hosting special events. Interns may take up to two weeks of unpaid vacation time (schedule to be determined with supervisor and in collaboration with other interns). Please note, applicants with full-time early arrival commitments (e.g., MiddView, Residential Life, etc.) will not be considered at this time.

To be determined: [As in previous years, Knoll interns are also considered to be part of the FoodWorks program, a cohort of food related internships combined with programming including food systems field trips. Domestic US student interns receive a reimbursement for housing (in Weybridge House) for the 8 weeks of the FoodWorks program. (International students, please contact Sophie Esser Calvi for more information about participating.) <a href="https://www.middlebury.edu/foodworks">www.middlebury.edu/foodworks</a>. Please note that Food Works no longer carries a fee for participation; nor does participation offer academic credit. Knoll Interns are responsible for paying for housing in Weybridge House for the preceding and following weeks of the summer that occur outside of the FoodWorks timeframe.

## General Responsibilities:

Interns join in the yearly cycle of food production and regeneration and play an important role in program development and direction. Interns will help maintain and develop the gardens, outdoor kitchen, and serenity garden, including aspects of market gardening and sales. Interns serve to welcome visitors and groups, and they play an important role in establishing a welcoming learning environment for peers and visitors. They also serve to introduce the site and our mission. Should Pizza Oven use be permissible with COVID guidelines, they will also receive training to use the pizza oven to co-host events sponsored by campus partners. We will tend to follow the seasonal flow of work which shapes how our time is shared; interns can expect that the role involves a mix of guiding peers for in-person, hands-on earth work and program development work (which may take place remotely or independently outside of our time together). Summer interns may also have the opportunity to continue with independent and remote program development work after the garden closes in the fall and into the winter term. Areas of program development may include knoll expansion, event management, and anti-racist practice and program development.

## On-site responsibilities:

- Serve as stewards who welcome peer and community visitors and volunteers to the Knoll, facilitating Volunteer Hours and events hosted at the Knoll.
- With support of the Food & Garden Educator, carry out all aspects of managing the Educational Garden, including soil preparation, bed building, sowing, transplanting, cultivating, harvesting, and sales.

- Collaborate with staff at Middlebury Dining Services, Weybridge House, Dolci, and other local partnerships to develop orders and delivery of produce.
- Through partnership with HOPE, our local food shelf, grow produce for the community.
- Participate in and facilitate work days and events with volunteers.
- In addition to regularly-scheduled hours: support events by managing the pizza oven and grounds, as needed.
- Attend MCOF (student org) meetings during the academic year to act as a liaison.
- Attend workshops when possible at The Knoll.
- Participate in and support faculty or student research programs at The Knoll, as needed.
- Maintain tools and equipment in proper condition.
- Follow and demonstrate safety procedures for all workers and volunteers, including COVID-19 safety protocols.
- Participate, as needed, in a weekly planning meeting with other interns.
- Participate, as needed, in a rotating weekend greenhouse/garden watering schedule.
- Participate in scheduled visits to local farms for observation, tours, and joint projects and partnerships.
- Support public relations initiatives with the college and local community.
- Perform other duties as assigned.

## Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Prior farming or gardening experience is not expected or required. Successful candidates will demonstrate curiosity and enthusiasm for learning about all aspects of a sustainably-managed garden and the mission of the Knoll.
- Excellent peer leadership skills with particular attention to the active crafting of an open and affirming space for individuals historically underrepresented in Knoll programming.
- Willingness and ability to perform varying physical tasks in most weather conditions. Garden labor can, at times, be strenuous, repetitive, and physically demanding. We acknowledge that this role can have physically taxing elements and will work together to craft daily plans which strive to adapt to the garden's and our needs.
- Willingness and ability to welcome and help orient visitors as a part of a team.
- Willingness to observe and uphold compliance with state and College expectations around COVID-19 safety.
- Please note, the Knoll is not currently an ADA-accessible site.

Location	Middlebury, VT Campus
Campus	Middlebury College
Posting Information	
Is this an academic year or summer position?	Summer
Special Instructions to Applicants	TBD This position is available to returning Middlebury College students only