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Community-Based Education Program



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Promotional Copy

#4230 – Community Supported Agriculture Tour: Prep

Organization Information

The host organization is a campus-based, community-oriented, non-profit organization committed to research, education, and action on local social justice and environmental issues. Each year, its staff and volunteers organize speakers, films, conferences, publications, and campaigns on a wide variety of topics that fit within its mandate. They also offer skills development workshops and have previously partnered with TCCBE for a number of projects.

Project Information

The purpose of the project is to conduct preliminary research for educating and involving the community in the alternatives that exist to conventional supermarket retailers (e.g. connecting community members and their food choices to issues like food security, sustainable agriculture and agrarian reform). The focus of the project is Community Shared Agriculture (CSA) as an alternative to conventional food systems.

Students will conduct a literature review and interview CSA farmers, CSA network personnel and value chain actors. If possible (or instead), a focus group will be conducted to answer the following research questions:

- What are the links between international agrarian/food chain issues and CSA?
- How do food chain issues affect communities?
- How does CSA affect communities?
- What effect has the transition to CSA had on farmers that are involved?
- What are the challenges and opportunities for CSA in Peterborough City and County?
- What is the best way to go about conducting a public CSA tour for raising awareness about the above issues?

Since this is a pilot project, it is important that the student assess the project from his/her perspective through a brief reflection assessment. Write and present a final report.

Benefit to the Host Organization and Community

The research will benefit the community in a number of ways:

- Greater linking of local CSA Networks and participants
- Providing preliminary research that will support the design and delivery of a workshop/tour that will:
- Educate people on the food options that they have within the community and the connections they can make through food.
- Link community members with CSA networks and give the community an opportunity for feedback that can improve local food networks and service delivery.
- Introduce community members to issues such as sustainable agriculture and how it affects their community.

What students might learn

The project offers learning opportunities through primary research and experiencing how CSA and CSA networks operate in Peterborough. The connections between these local activities and broader issues effecting people globally (e.g. sustainability in agriculture and agrarian reform issues) is central to the research, however there is lots of room for other connections to be made. We know we will benefit from a student's particular angle of inspiration! There are many opportunities for a student to learn directly from those involved in CSA and the issues that face the food industry.

Screening or Training Requirements

A meeting with the prospective student in order to make sure the project is a good fit.

Skills or Experience Needed

- Working independently
- Time management
- Public speaking an asset

Resources Required for Project Provided by Host

- Office space & photocopying
- Computers and printing if needed
- Work support and advice (e.g. suggesting various literature like OPRIG's Supermarket Tour Manual and making connections with local CSA networks like "By the Bushel")

***All project expenditures must be pre-approved by the host.*