

Urban Fruit Orchard Stewardship Team

Description – The Fullerton Arboretum has over 1.5 acres where fruit trees are grown, including a stone and pome fruit orchard, avocado and orange grove, and rare fruit grove. Fruit is harvested from the trees on a weekly basis and is made available for sale to arboretum visitors. Surplus fruit is donated to the ASI Food Pantry each week. The wide variety of fruit trees allow visitors to sample different types of fresh fruit that is grown locally and sustainably. The fruit trees are a gateway to the rest of the arboretum and the botanical world in general. Interns will use the fruit orchards as an outdoor laboratory to gain real-world experience. They will steward the Arboretum’s fruit trees and build programming and interpretive content around them. Arboretum Horticulture Staff members will supervise and mentor the student interns.

Responsibilities

- Maintain fruit orchards, weeds, irrigation, and surrounding areas
- Harvest fruit for sale and other events
- Collect and record harvest and phenology data
- Plan events that are centered around the fruit trees
- Develop interpretive signage and other content
- Provide in-person interpretation to arboretum visitors
- Organize volunteer work days
- Promote the fruit trees and arboretum on social media and through other avenues
- Create a presentation and/or poster at the end of the semester

Availability – This program is open to a group of up to 6 student interns in the Fall, Spring and Summer semesters. CSUF students in any major from freshman to senior class levels are eligible.

Time Commitment – Interns will be expected to work at least 8 hours per week for a total of 120 hours per semester. At least 2 hours are mandatory on Thursday mornings between 8:30am and 12:30pm for weekly harvests. Time will consist of work/activity days, independent research and team meetings.

Student Learning Objectives

- Learn horticultural practices and general ecological principles
- Team work, team building, team management and leadership skills
- Project and event planning, coordination and implementation
- Environmental education with emphasis on interpretive signage and informal science education
- Integrated pest management principles
- Experience in recruitment and interview process
- Building relationships with campus community members and a stronger connection to campus
- Students engaged in promoting sustainability and beautification of campus
- Develop cross-disciplinary skills and work with students from other majors
- Develop soft skills that are applicable to any work place

Application Process – Register with the Center for Internships and Community Engagement. Provide the arboretum with a resume and cover letter explaining why you would like to participate in this internship program and what makes you a good candidate. Interns are responsible for arranging course credit with their adviser.