



First Work Experience Information for Parents

Dear Parents:

Thank you for your interest in your child's summer activities! Herring Gut Learning Center's First Work Experience Program is a wonderful opportunity for teenagers, **ages 13-15**, to have a productive, meaningful summer, develop job skills and a strong work ethic, and earn some money at the same time. We know that many questions will arise for parents whose children have applied to work with us. Here is some basic information about the program. If you have any other questions, feel free to call or email us at any time!

When/where will the First Work Experience program be held?

There will be four 4-week sessions during the summer. There will be a morning (8:30-11:30) and afternoon (12-3pm) session from June 20 through July 13 (the workday on Tues. July 4 will be replaced by Wed. July 5). There will also be morning (8:30-11:30) and afternoon (12-3pm) sessions from July 18 through August 10. Students must be able to attend all days during their session. Students will work on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** at Herring Gut Learning Center in Port Clyde or at the Oceanview Grange in Port Clyde. Herring Gut will help facilitate a carpooling schedule so transportation is not a barrier to participation in the program.

What will my child be doing all summer?

Students will work in the gardens planting, weeding, harvesting vegetables, and problem solving issues as they arise and making improvements to the gardens. Students will also be responsible for maintenance and harvesting in the aquaponic greenhouse. One day a week, students will learn business and interpersonal skills by working at a Farmers Market at the Oceanview Grange. At the Farmers Market, students will sell their produce, greet customers, and shadow other farms and local businesses to learn about entrepreneurship. Students will also participate in workshops about responsible money management, nutrition, and how to search for a job after this program.

How much will my child be paid?

Students will be paid a stipend of \$200 (minus taxes) for each 4-week session. Students will be required to provide a Social Security number and obtain a work permit if hired. We will facilitate the process of obtaining a work permit. Because this is fundamentally a beginning employment experience, it will be structured as a real job. If a student does not show up for work, they will not get paid. In addition, students will be held to a high standard of work throughout the program. If they violate the contract they will sign at the beginning of the program, Herring Gut reserves the right to terminate their employment.

Herring Gut Learning Center does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, nationality, political affiliation, age, or religious beliefs in the administration of its education programs.



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What will my child get out of this experience?

The students who participate in this program will develop a strong work ethic, learn the fundamentals of being a responsible employee, and gain valuable work experience – through a healthy and productive summer activity! I encourage graduates of the program to use me as a reference on future job applications and am proud to say that several graduates of this program have found employment in local businesses.

How does my child apply?

Interested students can obtain an application online or at Herring Gut Learning Center. If students have any questions about how to fill out the application they are encouraged to contact us. We want this to be a learning experience for students who may never have had to fill out an application before. Applications are due **Friday April 14** and interviews will be conducted after April vacation. Applicants will be notified of the final hiring decisions the second week of May.

Please mail completed applications to Herring Gut Learning Center, Attn: Alex Brasili, PO Box 286, Port Clyde, ME 04855, fax to (207) 372-6377, or scan and email to abrasili@herringgut.org

Questions?

Feel free to contact Alex Brasili (Program Coordinator) at any time with questions about the program!

Email: abrasili@herringgut.org

Phone: (207) 372-8677

Website: www.herringgut.org