



Tierra Nueva

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Tierra Nueva's Full Time Internship Description

History of Tierra Nueva: Tierra Nueva began in 1982 when Bob and Gracie Ekblad first moved to Minas de Oro, Honduras, to work and learn alongside poor campesinos. Seeking to address the poverty that belied the regional wars and conflicts in Central America, Bob and Gracie learned and taught sustainable farming, nutrition, and preventative health. As they read the Scriptures alongside their Honduran neighbors—many of whom were excluded from the local churches—the campesinos began to discover Good News for themselves.

Bob and Gracie moved to the Skagit Valley in Washington State in 1994, an agricultural valley that attracts a large number of migrant farm workers from Mexico and Central America. Here the Ekblads established Tierra Nueva del Norte and began to engage in legal advocacy, chaplaincy and accompaniment of migrant workers in the Skagit County Jail. These two ministries continue to be the anchors of Tierra Nueva. Tierra Nueva projects aim at providing advocacy and support for marginalized families in Skagit Valley, as well as raising up local leaders who feel called to serve the community.

Sustainable Agriculture Curriculum: This position offers a unique opportunity to learn about the “what” and the “why” of sustainable agriculture. Each week, interns will work on two separate farms to get hands-on experience and exposure to two different organic farming systems. In addition, there will be reading materials and a weekly time for presentation and discussion on subjects related to sustainable agriculture.

Full Season Intern Expectations:

- Commit to the full season, from April 15th through September 15th
- One season's previous experience in farming or market-scale gardening
- Basic understanding of Spanish and English (fluency in at least one and a willingness to learn)
- Basic computer skills (email, internet, word, spreadsheets)
- Ability and willingness to learn new tasks, ask questions, and work hard
- Provide your own means of transportation

Full Season Intern Responsibilities:

- All normal farm activities: green-house starts, direct-seeding, transplanting, weeding, composting, harvesting, packing, and occasional deliveries
- Intern and Volunteer coordination: includes training interns and volunteers in normal farm activities and checking the quality of work done
- Submit a program evaluation at the end of your time with Tierra Nueva

General Work Description:

- Work Friday-Monday, 8am to 5pm. (More specifically: Tuesdays and Fridays at Riversong Farm; Saturday and Monday at New Earth Farm; occasional work or deliveries Sunday mornings; bi-weekly agriculture curriculum and/or field trips on Tuesdays; Wednesday and Thursday are days off); Total hours per week: 32 to 40
- Weekly attendance and participation in the Sustainable Agriculture Curriculum, including readings, take-home assignments, participation in field trips, and volunteer exchange days with other local farms (2 to 4 hours every two weeks)

Tierra Nueva Provisions:

- Experience and training in all aspects of sustainable agriculture (the “what” of agriculture)
- Sustainable Agriculture Curriculum materials and training (the “why” of agriculture)
- \$750 stipend each month.
- Interns will receive a share each week, according to produce availability.

Housing: While the intern is ultimately responsible for finding housing during her/his work commitment, Tierra Nueva staff will assist in any way we can.

The Farms: Interns will work on two small organic farms, allowing them to appreciate different approaches to organic agriculture. *New Earth Farm* is a social enterprise of Tierra Nueva, and is located at 16665 Britt Road, Mount Vernon, WA. In its fifth year as a CSA, New Earth Farm offers both on-farm pickups and regional deliveries, as well as occasional sales to the Skagit Valley Food Co-op. *Riversong Farm* is owned by Christie Stewart Stein, and is located at 16384 Donnelly Road, Mount Vernon, WA. Christie has been farming for 13 years and her CSA has 50 subscribers who pick up at the farm. Also living at the farm are a number of animals, adding to the experience. Working in Skagit Valley will bring you into an intimate setting, with many opportunities to enjoy the natural surroundings of the Cascade Mountains and Puget Sound, and the experience of living in a small and beautiful rural community.

How To Apply: Please begin the application process by completing the “Internship Application” and returning it to Tierra Nueva by email or mail. No payment is required. **Applications received by March 15th will have priority in the hiring process.** Applications received after that date will be accepted on a rolling basis. Applicants come from many different backgrounds and interests; they are interested in sustainable agriculture, international development, social justice, immigration, and social enterprise management. Applicants need to review the “Internship Contract,” and it is important to understand and agree to the terms of the contract before applying. Tierra Nueva will contact you after reviewing your application, usually within three weeks.

Still have questions?

If you have questions before you apply, please send an email to newearthfarm@newearthworks.org. Also see our websites at farm.newearthworks.org and www.tierra-nueva.org.