



## **Roots & Wings Adult Mentor**

**Summary:** Roots & Wings is a Youth Leadership and Urban Agriculture program coordinated by Angelic Organics Learning Center at Blackhawk Courts Farm in Rockford, IL. Adult mentors commit to participating in weekly youth programming with middle school students at Blackhawk Courts farm during 6-8 weeks from mid-June to mid-August, with options for continued support during the school year.

### **Volunteer Roles and Responsibilities:**

- Consistently modeling positive behavior in line with the Roots & Wings Code of Conduct.
- Attending weekly summer Youth Leader Sessions on Monday afternoons, including leading one-on-one or small group reflective and educational activities with youth.
- Committing to one additional volunteer "specialty" responsibility, together with assigned youth leaders, such as:
  - Educational activities for younger youth on Monday late afternoons.
  - Supporting youth leaders in working alongside the farm team (Weds afternoons)
  - Special event planning (markets or community events, timing varies)
- Providing staff with feedback on program and individual youth.

### **Time commitment:**

Regular commitment:

- 1 to 3 on Mondays from June 18 to July 16
- One additional 2 hour slot per week, to be determined with staff, based on needs and interests.

Special Events:

- Adult mentor orientation will take place on June 4 from 1 to 3, and will include a basic program orientation, safety training, introduction to mentoring.
- Adult mentors are strongly encouraged to attend an overnight training at Angelic Organics lodge with Youth Leaders from June 12 to 13.
- Adult mentors attend a debrief session in early August.

### **Volunteer requirements:**

All adult mentors will complete a background check and child protection training.

Volunteers must be comfortable working outside in all weather and working at a public housing site.

Volunteers must commit to following the Roots & Wings Code of Conduct, and modeling good behavior with youth.



**Experience/Skills Desired:**

Any of the following are preferred: If no experience, the volunteer must be open to learning alongside youth

- Farm or garden experience
- Educational or group work experience
- Cooking or nutrition skills

**Training Provided:**

We will host an Adult Mentor Orientation, to provide basic garden training and information on the program, at the Blackhawk Courts Farm and Garden on June 4th from 1-3pm.

**Reports to:**

Adult Mentors will report to Tedd Snowden, Program Director

**Location:**

Blackhawk Courts Farm is at 1413 Valley Court in Rockford.

**Physical Requirement**

- Ability to work outdoors in all weather.
- Ability to lift up to 25 pounds and do other physical farm tasks, as needed.

**Benefits:**

The opportunity to make a difference in the lives of youth.

Vegetables, as available, from Blackhawk Courts Farm and Garden.

The opportunity to attend an overnight program at Angelic Organics Lodge.

**To Apply**

Please familiarize yourself with our website at [www.learnrowconnect.org](http://www.learnrowconnect.org). Fill out the volunteer application form on our website, and the Roots & Wings supplement.