

# Internship Introduction (/internship/internship-intro)

The Twin Oaks community internship program introduces people to community life for a fixed, short period of time, typically 2-6 months. Interns live like other Twin Oaks members in almost all ways.

Conference Internship (/internship/internship-intro/37-tour-visit-join/twinoaks-internship/152-conference-internship): this Internship (the only one offered at this time) involves helping organize Twin Oaks' two main events in late summer, The Communities Conference and The Women's Gathering. Both events have Twin Oaks members as their main organizers, and the Intern will help them and be involved in the day-to-day activities of planning these events, which over 200 people attend. More information about the tasks (/internship/internship-intro/37-tour-visit-join/twinoaks-internship/152-conference-internship) involved.

Why Twin Oaks is an unusual place to intern.

## **How To Become An Intern**

When you're ready to apply, write to [internship@twinoaks.org](mailto:internship@twinoaks.org) (mailto:internship@twinoaks.org) for a short application form. Then send us your 1) cover letter, 2) resumé, and 3) completed application form. On March 15, we will review all applications received, then invite one or more applicants to do a three-week visitor period in April or May. We will still consider applications received after March 15. Qualified applicants will then be invited to do a Three Week Visit in either April or May.

All potential interns must do a Three Week Visit ([click here](http://www.twinoakscommunity.org/internship/internship-intro/36-tour-visit-join/visit-tour1/55-visitor-program-three-week) (http://www.twinoakscommunity.org/internship/internship-intro/36-tour-visit-join/visit-tour1/55-visitor-program-three-week) for details). This is a comprehensive introduction to Twin Oaks. Participants live, work, and play along side community members, plus receive orientations in various aspects of our society and culture. At the end of the three week visit, potential interns leave for 10 days. This is a chance for them to think about their experience and for the community to decide on the the intern's candidacy. (Most interns are accepted.) Twin Oaks will help find a place to stay for the intern during the 10 days away if returning home is a hardship.

If you have questions about the application process, you can email us at [internship@twinoaks.org](mailto:internship@twinoaks.org) (mailto:internship@twinoaks.org)

## **What Does An Intern Do?**

The main difference between an intern and a member is that the intern has a specific work area in which they spend 5-20 hours a week. For example, a conference intern will work on different aspects of Twin Oaks' two annual conferences (The Women's Gathering on the last weekend of August or the Communities Conference on the first weekend of September).

Once a person becomes an intern, all basic living costs are covered (food, housing, work clothing, etc). Interns have full access to Twin Oaks facilities, and to social and cultural events. Minimal health care is provided by the community; interns with regular health insurance usually hold on to it. Interns receive the same allowance as members (currently \$72/month) and like other members, don't use personal money or vehicles.

**Why Twin Oaks is an unusual place to intern.**

Twin Oaks is principally a community, rather than a business. It is based on values of cooperation, non-violence and income-sharing. As an intern you would spend a significant fraction of your time here doing things other than your specific internship work. This work usually includes making hammocks, gardening, cooking, cleaning, office work, making tofu, and a dozen other things which keep Twin Oaks going. You would live in a private room in one of our residences, which house 10-18 people.

If you are looking for a highly professional internship, Twin Oaks is perhaps a poor choice. If you are looking for something less formal and more diversified than a normal job, in a very relaxed and progressive atmosphere, working with a bunch of diverse and interesting people, then we might be the right place for you. We are happy to answer your questions.

(By the way, nearby Acorn Community offers garden and organic seed business internships. For more information, contact Ira Wallace: [Ira@SouthernExposure.com](mailto:Ira@SouthernExposure.com) (<mailto:Ira@SouthernExposure.com>))

### **Note**

If you are interested in interning here during another time of the year, or aren't interested in conference organizing but would like to spend a few months here, please contact Us (</about-twinoaks-community/contact-twinoakscommunity>) to ask about our Residency Program. Residents live in the community 2 - 6 months and participate in various aspects of life here.

# Conference Internship (/twinoaks-visits-60/internship/152-internship-conference)

## **Objective of the internship**

To support the logistics coordination and organizing of two major conferences held at Twin Oaks: the Women's Gathering (<http://www.womensgathering.org>) and the Communities Conference (<http://www.communitiesconference.org>). Both conferences have approximately 250 participants. In addition the intern will participate in the diverse tasks of running the community - including (but not limited to) gardening, woodworking, cooking, child care, weaving hammocks, business management, making tofu, building buildings, conference organizing.

## **Job/Task Description and Responsibilities**

Corresponding with conference attendees, Pre- and On-site Registration, doing PR mailings to the people in our database, setting up workshop schedule with presenters, organizing activities during the conferences, contacting like-minded organizations and communities, preparing food for 200+ attendees, preparing rustic conference site for conference and more! Interns can work on all or some of the above tasks. Work for the conferences will be increased steadily as a fraction of the total work week (45 hours), the rest of the work week will be spent in other community work areas (domestic and/or income producing).

## **What will the intern learn during the internship?**

Logistics coordination for large events, including cooperative decision-making, public relations skills, coordinating activities, managing detailed administrative work, interpersonal skills, large-group food preparation, etc. There is a wide range of other things which an intern might learn (there are over 200 tasks scheduled weekly in the community) from bee keeping to software development, from cheese making to retail sales and lots in between.

## **Applicant requirements**

- self-motivated and self-starting
- willingness to work cooperatively
- good communicator
- good-natured flexibility
- creative thinking
- problem-solving skills
- calm under pressure
- computer/social networking/media
- practical hands-on skills (can handle a hammer, drill, etc., experience in kitchens or art/design)
- project management skills
- experienced in organizing events
- interest in radical politics—feminism, alternative culture, community living
- comfortable in a rustic outdoor setting
- comfortable working with people of diverse ages, races, and sexualities
- for Women's Gathering interns—comfortable in a diverse women's/feminist culture

For application instructions, go here (<http://www.twinoakscommunity.org/internship/internship-intro>).