Seasonal Seed Steward

Job Title: Seasonal Seed Steward
Department: Field Operations
Reports To: Seed Production Manager & Field Coordinators
FLSA Status: Full-time seasonal hourly non-exempt

This position will support Seed Savers Exchange field staff with all field work and seed production activities. We seek to cultivate a collaborative and supportive workplace environment as we farm on 5-10 production acres and grow over 300 varieties each year. This work includes collection regeneration, catalog seed production, and evaluation grow outs.

This is a seasonal Full-time position (40 hrs/week for a 26 week period) working from early May through October 31st, 2022. Starting wage: $14/hr.

Essential Duties And Responsibilities:

Job responsibilities for this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Preparing fields for direct seeding and transplanting
- Direct seeding and transplanting 5-10 acres of seed production crops
- Setting up and maintaining fences, trellises, and pollination cages
- Mulching with hay and laying landscape fabric
- Tending fields, including watering and hand weeding, weed whipping in-row and along perimeter fence lines
- Harvesting fruit and seed crops
- Threshing, extracting, and hand-processing seeds following organizational protocols to ensure organic certification of productions and avoid variety mix-ups
- Cleaning up fields at the end of the growing season by removing plant residue, fencing, trellises, landscape fabric, and other infrastructure
- Maintaining order and cleanliness in equipment shed, trucks, trailers, and other workspaces
- Other duties as assigned

Physical Requirements:

- Ability to work in varying weather conditions
- Ability to stand, kneel, and walk for long periods of time
- Ability to perform physical activity: lifting (up to 100 lbs. assisted); carrying (50 lbs.), bending frequently, climbing, pushing, and pulling
Qualifications:

- An ideal applicant would be enthusiastic, detail-oriented, and a flexible team player
- Must be able to work in groups or small teams
- Interest in seed saving/production and organic/sustainable agriculture preferred
- Demonstrated practical work experience with plants; experience with organic vegetable crops is preferred
- Ability to operate (or willingness to learn) roto-tillers, weed-whips, and other small-scale farm and garden implements is preferred
- Applicants must have reliable transportation to and from work
- Applicants who have a valid driver’s license are preferred

Benefits:

- Paid holidays
- One paid personal day
- Employee merchandise discounts
- Participation in employee wellness program
- Weekly teach-ins by SSE staff members to expand knowledge on specific topics
- A unique opportunity in the Driftless Region of the Midwest to experience seed production and preservation on a mid-sized scale
- For applicants with vegetable production experience, this position will offer an often missed perspective into sustainable agriculture through organic seed farming.