Orchard Steward at the Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands

At the Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands, community members of all ages come together to learn how to grow food organically and restore a wetland ecosystem. The farm also contains several dozen young fruit trees as part of a wetland orchard, including apple, pear, cherry, plum and peach trees. These provide fruit that is shared with the community and used in educational programming onsite.

**Position Description**
Orchard Stewards work together to ensure a healthy, productive orchard is thriving at the farm. Alongside Tilth Alliance staff and community volunteers, you’ll help maintain the existing orchard and plan for future improvements. Primary activities will include: pruning; pest, weed and disease management; and harvesting and processing fruit. Orchard Stewards receive training in fruit tree pruning, organic care of fruit trees and a variety of related topics including permaculture, food preservation, etc.

**Responsibilities**
- Participate in regular orchard care activities, at least once a month
- Support work parties with neighbors, community and business groups, and schools
- Develop educational signage and other activities
- Attend an Orchard Steward Orientation and participate in training opportunities

**Benefits**
- Gain knowledge and experience related to organic fruit tree management
- Develop and apply communication, environmental education, and group management skills
- Make professional contacts with Tilth Alliance staff, partner organizations, and volunteers
- Enjoy working with a team to accomplish common goals

**Qualifications**
- Interest in fruit tree management (prior experience is helpful but not required)
- Must enjoy doing physical work outside, in all types of weather
- Ability and desire to work with people from diverse backgrounds
- Ability to work independently and also as part of a team
- Available to attend Saturday work parties (weekday opportunities are also available) at least once a month
- Ability to commit to at least 1 year of orchard care work parties and training opportunities

**Compensation**
This is an unpaid volunteer opportunity, but service hours may count for school credit.

**Training Requirements**
Orchard Stewards are required to attend an Orchard Steward Orientation (scheduled periodically), pruning workshop and attend ongoing learning opportunities (optional).