

Sustainable Agriculture & Rural Development (SARD) Internship General Information

Updated January 2, 2025

[Lopez Community Land Trust \(LCLT\)](#) is a 501c(3) non-profit organization located on Lopez Island in the northwest corner of Washington State. As a community land trust, the organization's primary purpose is to provide permanently affordable access to land for housing, sustainable agriculture, forestry and cottage industries. LCLT also has the purpose to serve as a model in land stewardship and community development by providing information, resources and expertise. Through this, LCLT offers two structured internships for those interested in construction or sustainable agriculture and community food systems.

LCLT is committed to strengthening our local food network by purchasing and stewarding land for working farms, supporting local food security initiatives and encouraging ecologically sound rural development related to water, transportation and solar energy.

SARD Internships offer the opportunity to combine hands-on farm learning with seminars at local community organizations to explore what makes a sustainable island community. Interns also have the option to develop self-directed research work for future projects. Internship sites range from farms with livestock, market-gardens or a combination thereof. These include a horse drawn operated farm, a farm with commercial compost production, farms with cows, goats, chickens, sheep, a focus on grain or bean production. An additional special placement is at the school garden program. Each farm immerses the intern in small-scale, ecologically sound agriculture, some operate with permaculture, no or low-till emphasis, and all follow organic practices. SARD Interns follow the island farming season which can include planting, cultivation, harvesting and food preservation, market gardens, orchard gleanings and livestock production. Interns work with LCLT and the farm to determine best fit based on learning objectives.

Responsibilities of interns:

- Begin internship on an agreed upon date and stay with the program for the entire contracted time.
- SARD interns participate at designated time and farm location 8 hours per day, 4 days a week, for a minimum of six weeks (longer recommended). Days may vary on farm or school placements, if you have multiple interests, there is possibility to split two days a week at two different farms.
- SARD interns also commit to spending one day a week with housing host (see below).
- Commit to attending all seminars and reflect on a chosen research question.
- Interns are expected to exhibit initiative and self-motivation, treating housing and farm hosts with respect and professionalism.
- Submit a program evaluation towards the end of your time with LCLT.
- Participate with an attitude of cooperation and willingness to learn.
- Adhere to all policies of LCLT and local laws.
- Project a positive community image.

Housing:

LCLT will locate housing for interns as needed. Housing is generally provided by volunteer hosts who have an extra room or guest housing. This housing is sometimes rustic, including wood-heated cabins, canvas tents or yurts. Other housing may be a room within a house with full amenities. Interns are typically provided a private sleeping space and access to kitchen and bathroom. Interns are required to spend one day per week for their hosts on a variety of projects which may include gardening chores or light home maintenance tasks. This arrangement is mutually agreed upon in advance. LCLT makes every effort to match interns and prospective hosts with complementary lifestyles and expectations. Children and/or pets cannot be accommodated.

Stipend:

Interns receive \$200 per week stipend for discretionary food and general expenses.

Dates / Timing

Internships may begin as early as May and can continue through September. All internships require a minimum six-week commitment with four days per week on site and one day per week host work/trade. LCLT can sometimes accommodate requests for shorter internships but it depends on level of skill and circumstances.

General Information:

LCLT Internships on Lopez bring you into an intimate setting with many opportunities to enjoy the natural beauty of the San Juan Islands and to experience living in an island community where we depend on and celebrate one another. LCLT interns typically come from many different backgrounds and interests including college students, people exploring career options or course of study. Past Interns have hailed from across the US and 10 different countries (as their visa status allows). If you have an interest in developing a greater knowledge of sustainable living models ranging from sustainable agriculture, affordable housing, renewable energy and food security issues, please note that in your application so we can arrange additional learning opportunities.

We are accepting applications now. If you would like to apply for an internship, please email Breton at lclt25@rockisland.com for additional information.