SUMMER GROWING PROGRAM
CREW WORKER REFERENCE

APPLICANT: Please put your name here: ______________________________

Give this form to an adult who knows you well but who is not a member of your family, such as a teacher, coach, minister, etc. Explain to that person why you would like to work for Roots and Wisdom this summer. Ask them to fill out the reference and mail it to us before April 11, 2014.

REFERENCE WRITER:

Thank you for taking the time to offer your perspective on this youth! He or she is interested in participating in an exciting program in Schenectady County this summer. The information on the reverse side of this form will give you an idea of what the program is about and what the youth will be doing. As we can only hire a limited number of youth, your reference is an important part of the hiring process.

We prefer email, but you may also mail this form and your reference.

1. Email: Send an email to Jenny at jmh556@cornell.edu with a subject line of: Reference for youth’s name. Please remember to include all of the information requested below.

2. Mail: Send this form and your reference to: Cornell Cooperative Extension, Schenectady County Roots and Wisdom, 107 Nott Terrace, Suite 301; Schenectady, NY 12308-3170

Your name: ____________________________ Title ____________________________

School or Organization: _______________________ Phone: ________________

Address: ________________________________

Please answer the following questions as fully as possible and attach your answers to this sheet.

1. How long, and in what capacity, have you known this person? What do you know about his or her work habits, learning style, and role in group dynamics?
2. How do you feel Roots and Wisdom could serve this person?
3. In your opinion, how could this person serve Roots and Wisdom?
4. Please give us any other information that might be relevant to working with this person.

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities
Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities. NYS College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, NYS College of Human Ecology, and NYS College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University, Cooperative Extension Associations, county governing bodies, and U.S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating.
INFORMATION SHEET FOR REFERENCE WRITERS

Our mission - Roots and Wisdom’s mission is to engage the diverse population of Schenectady County—particularly youth—in serving their community through the support of a sustainable local food system. Participants will experience personal growth and development leading to positive social change.

What we do - Roots and Wisdom works with Schenectady County youth to grow organic vegetables for donation to local food pantries and shelters and for sale at local farmers’ markets. Workshops and discussions about nutrition, sustainable agriculture, food systems, leadership, diversity, and service are an integral part of the program.

Where we work - Our office and a small urban garden site are located at the Horticulture Center in Schenectady’s Central Park. We have a second urban garden on Fehr Avenue just outside the park and a garden in Vale Cemetery.

Who we hire - This summer we will hire youth from throughout Schenectady County who are 15-18 years old.

What they will do - Youth will work as part of a crew to plant, tend, and harvest vegetables. Youth help to deliver the food they grow to food pantries and social service programs in the county. They sell vegetables at a small farm stand. Roots and Wisdom is a youth development program as well as a job, and youth regularly participate in workshops and discussions relevant to the program’s work.

How you can help - Please send us the completed form and reference letter for the youth who has approached you. We must have this letter before we can schedule an interview for this person, so please send it to us before April 11, 2014. If you have any questions, please contact Jenny by phone (372-1622, ext. 264) or email jmh556@cornell.edu

Thank you for your assistance!

Roots & Wisdom
creating community through agriculture