Robert F. Kennedy Farm to School Program

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Robert F. Kennedy Mission Statement

RFK Charter School prepares, motivates, and supports students to achieve their college and career goals in partnership with their families and the community.
About the project

The Farm to School program is in partnership with the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) to provide on the job training and various career pathways through workshops and field experience.
Brief Description

This YCC internship gives students on the job training in traditional farming. Where they will have access to additional programs in welding, apothecary education, beekeeping, drivers ED, mural application, nutrition and culinary arts. YCC members will have the opportunity to participate in multiple field trips across Albuquerque, New Mexico to different farm and garden locations. The goal of this program is to broaden interns career pathways, while strengthening community and cultural knowledge on our food systems.
What is Traditional Farming?

Traditional Farming is the practice of strengthening ecosystems and biodiversity to increase soil and land function through organic means.
ACEQUIAS

Traditional in New Mexico, crops are watered using acequias. Which are intricate ditch systems spanning across NM that flows water from the Rio Grande River to farmlands.
Our main location is Shadyside Farm
Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

Benefits
- Conserving natural resources
- Preserving farmland
- Improving economic viability for small-scale production
- Minimizing processing, packaging, and long-distance distribution
- Improving food access for all income levels
- Encouraging social and political change
- Positive relationships between producers and consumers
- Family meals
- More meals eaten at home
- Increased cooking
- Conserves household food budget
- Increased seasonal food and agricultural knowledge
- Children connected with food sources
- Increased fruit and vegetable consumption
- Developing a preference for fresh produce
- Reduced risk for chronic disease
- Psychological benefits
- Expression of social and ecological values

Challenges
- Not all CSAs are profitable
- Access for limited resource populations depends on public subsidies or private charity
- Subscription CSAs more common than shareholder CSAs
- Economic barriers
- Transportation barriers
- Spatial barriers
- Time costs
- Increased food preparation labor
- Inconvenience attending distribution
- Negative feelings about food waste

Local Food System
- Consumption
- Production
- Distribution
- Transformation
- Access

Community

Families

Individuals

CSA
Donation Based CSA

All our food will be donated to community partners to provide underserved community with access to organic produce.
What programs do we offer?

Drivers ED

Culinary Arts
Beekeeping

RFK is partnered with Desert Hives to give a 10 class course on how to ethically care for honey bees.

We have 8 hives on site for students to receive hands on instruction.
Traditional Medicine- Food & Nutrition

Students will receive Lectures and practicum on food, herb and bodily benefits that come from the types of food we consume. This is possible through a 10 class course, given by practitioners from Phytotherapy by Sonia Massoco.

Mammoth sunflower

White sage transplant
Mural Project

Interns will have the opportunity to participate in a mural project focused around Gun Violence awareness.
Students will work with Guns to Gardens to recycle dismantled guns to build a mural frame and art piece to bring awareness to gun violence.

They will also learn the basics of blacksmithing to recycle gun parts into gardening tools.
Southwest Educational Partners for Training (SWEPT)

SWEPT gained a YCC internship that is designed to compliment RFK’s internship. Allowing students to continue education longer into the season and allows RFK to reach further into supporting community youth.
Community Partners are Key!

Field trips and presentations are hosted by:

- Indiginious Farm hub
- Project Feed the Hood
- East Central Ministry (ECM)
- Cornelio Candelaria Organics
- New Mexico Acequia Association (NMAA)
- New Mexico Beekeeping Association
- National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)
- Organicos Food Hub
- The Haven Community Resource Center
- Sonia Masocco Phytotherapy
- Abuelas Medicina
- Rio Grande High School
- Southwest Organizing Project
General Curriculum

**Food Inc.:**
- Ideal Farm - Technology & Traditional Techniques
- History of Monsanto
- Biodiversity, Why is it Important?

**The Garden:**
- Overview of South Central Farm
- Films connections to ABQ community struggles

**Gather:**
- Vocabulary Sheet
- Food deserts, Food Sovereignty, personal power - poem

**Reflections:**
- Starting reflection
- Empathy, importance to farming
- Micro-aggression, making a safer community culture
- Final reflection

**Additional Information:**
- Earth’s nutrients and our nutritional needs
- Foraging, Laws, and Connections
- Fungus!
- Soils Story: Group research assignment
Questions?
Thank You!