

The Apprentice Housing Project at the UCSC Farm, Center for Agroecology & Sustainable Food Systems (CASFS)

The CASFS Apprenticeship

The UCSC Center for Agroecology & Sustainable Food Systems (CASFS), widely recognized as “the birthplace of organics,” is a research, education, and public service program dedicated to increasing ecological sustainability and social justice in the food and agriculture system. CASFS educational programs include undergraduate and graduate studies, public workshops and tours, and the world-renowned Apprenticeship in Ecological Horticulture.

The Apprenticeship, now celebrating 40 years of hands-on education for future leaders in sustainable agriculture, has trained over 1,200 individuals in organic gardening and small-scale farming, including growing, management, and marketing. Graduates have gone on to start organic landscaping companies, work in nursery production, run urban greening projects, and teach in school gardens, as well as managing farms and food garden projects in the U.S. and abroad.

The apprentices provide the necessary labor pool to manage and maintain CASFS’s two sites: the 3-acre Alan Chadwick Garden and the 25-acre CASFS Farm. These sites are the essential base for all of CASFS’s educational programs, production agriculture and horticulture, research, and community outreach and service. Both sites are open to the public seven days a week. They provide organically managed education and research facilities for undergraduates, graduates, and researchers, as well as public resources for tours and workshops for over 3,000 people annually.

The Apprentice Housing Project

Affordable housing is critical in attracting a diverse group of apprentices each year. The Apprentice Housing Project will provide CASFS with a practical, appropriate, cost-effective solution to the historical practice of apprentices living in individual tents on the site during their six months’ residency.

The planned Apprentice Housing Project will consist of eight 484-square foot structures, each of which will provide private rooms for four apprentices. The project will be located in an area at the north end of the CASFS Farm and provide housing for a total of 32 apprentices.

Each structure will consist of a 22' x 22' wooden deck on piers or slab-on-grade construction, with a simple roof. Each will have canvas exterior walls and interior wood-framed walls that separate the four adjacent “rooms.” Each apprentice will be assigned a 10' x 10' personal space, which will include a built-in table or shelves, an enclosed closet, and a bed platform.

Each tent cabin will include 12V photovoltaic power with battery back-up. At least one unit will be ADA accessible. The project includes shared solar shower facilities and toilet facilities to meet applicable codes.

The total cost of the project is estimated at \$487,500.

Naming Opportunities

Generous donors are invited to invest in the Apprenticeship in Ecological Horticulture by supporting the Apprentice Housing Project with gifts of any amount.

The project includes eight (8) tent-cabins, each divided into four (4) individual spaces, or a total of 32 individual spaces, plus a shower facility. Donors who significantly contribute toward the construction cost of a tent-cabin or one of the four rooms within a tent-cabin will be offered the opportunity to name the unit or sub-unit sponsored. A permanent sign will be affixed to named units, giving the donor's name or the name of a loved one, mentor, or other individual, family, or group that the donor wishes to honor.

To name one of eight (8) four-apprentice tent-cabins, the minimum gift is \$16,000.

To name one (1) one-apprentice housing space within a cabin, the minimum gift is \$5,000.

Gifts to support the Apprentice Housing Project may be made by check (to *UCSC Foundation* and with *Apprentice Housing Project* in the memo line) or by credit card. Online credit card gifts may be made through our website at <http://casfs.ucsc.edu/about/support.html>.

Pledges to support this project may be paid over time, with the minimum gift amount required for a naming opportunity to be paid within five years.

For more information about supporting the Apprentice Housing Project, please contact:

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Note: All gifts over \$100 will be listed in the UC Santa Cruz Foundation Annual Report. All naming guidelines, terms, and conditions are subject to the policies and administrative guidelines established by the UC Regents, the UC Santa Cruz Foundation, and the UC Santa Cruz campus. The minimum gift levels are subject to change and subject to endorsement by the UC Santa Cruz Naming Committee. No commitment for naming nor publication of the proposed naming shall be made prior to approval of the proposed name by the appropriate authority delegated by the UC Regents.