



## Orchard Crew Member

Vala's Pumpkin Patch & Apple Orchard is hiring an Orchard Crew member. This is a seasonal, temporary position, May through November. Located in Gretna, Nebraska, Vala's is a fall festival open to the public 45 to 55 days a year and a treasured fall tradition for many families in the surrounding communities. Vala's is one of the largest pick-your-own pumpkin patches in the world, spanning 400+ acres and including over 50 attractions, like pick-your-own pumpkins and apples, and over 25 specialty food locations. Working at Vala's during the fall season is a fast-paced, exciting experience that's also very rewarding – we create happiness!

### Responsibilities:

As an Orchard Crew member, you will work with a small group in the maintenance and care of over 35,000 trees in the orchard under the direction of the Owners and Agriculture and Orchard Manager. You will work closely with management to provide care and maintenance for the apple trees, including pruning, harvest, and pressing apples for cider. This position also includes working in the Cider Mill to help with the production of cider. This involves working with a team on pressing, bottling, and labeling, or other responsibilities assigned by management. As an Orchard Crew member, you will work with the Orchard and Cider Mill employees to maintain the high standards of quality and safety of our employees and guests in the orchards and the Cider Mill. This job description includes essential job functions for the position; however, other duties may be assigned as required based on the needs of the organization. This position may have limited work in the winter and is based on the needs of the business.

Crew Members should expect to work approximately 40 hours per week in the off season, and a minimum of 72 hours per week during our season, up to 12 hours per day if necessary depending on the needs of the orchard.

- Assist in the care and maintenance of the orchard
- Harvest apples throughout the season
- Assist in the spraying and pruning of the orchard trees, to include weed control
- General labor in the orchard
- Maintain and clean and safe work environment
- Assist with Pie Production and apple slicing, as needed
- May use necessary equipment for use in the orchard and Cider Mill (training provided)
- Assist in the production of sweet and hard cider at the Cider Mill
- Press apples for sweet cider production
- Care and maintenance of Cider Mill equipment
- Assist with other agriculture and landscaping duties
- Assist with apple and cider delivery to locations during the season
- Assist in the opening and closing of the orchard and Cider Mill for the season

### Requirements:

- Complete training provided for equipment and vehicles
- Experience working in an orchard or other agriculture environment a plus
- Must be able to work outside in all weather conditions

- Ability to lift 60 lbs or more; this position requires lifting, equipment handling, and being on your feet for long periods of time
- Bilingual (Spanish and English) a plus

This position is seasonal with variable work available in the winter months. There may be opportunities to grow within the organization. You may not work year round determined by the needs of the business. Weather may determine the amount of work available and hours worked year round. Work and time off will be determined by the Owners and Agriculture and Orchard Managers and based on the needs of the business. For time off, Orchard Crew members will work with management to determine needs of the business and time off during the year.

### **How To Apply**

Apply now and please send your cover letter and resume to Brianne McDonald, HR Manager, at [HR@valaspumpkinpatch.com](mailto:HR@valaspumpkinpatch.com)

*Vala's Pumpkin Patch is committed to equal employment opportunity. We will not discriminate against employees or applicants for employment on any legally-recognized basis including, but not limited to: race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, citizenship, disability, sexual orientation, height, weight, marital status, veteran status, uniform service member status or any other protected class under federal, state, or local law.*