



Paloma Jones, BA, BS, MPH



Empowering Youth Through Hands-On, Farm-to-Table, School-Based Hydroponic Farming

Teens for Food Justice (TFFJ) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization catalyzing a youth-led movement to end food insecurity in one generation through high-capacity, school-based hydroponic farming. With 19 Title I middle and high schools and 7,900 students in New York City and beyond growing 45,000 pounds of fresh produce distributed to local communities annually, we are cultivating the next generation of leaders in sustainable agriculture and food justice. Our innovative curriculum and after-school programs empower students to take charge of their health through year-round seed-to-harvest and farm-to-table growing; speak out against inequality in the food system and advocate for the needs of their communities; and learn competitive career skills in agricultural technology. This presentation provides an overview of our holistic programming, and a roadmap to center youth development in democratized food production.

Speaker Bio: Paloma Jones, BA, BS, MPH

Paloma has over 5 years of experience in youth food education. Much of this time was spent as a Garden and Kitchen educator with Edible Schoolyard NYC providing educational enrichment using food and gardens with middle schoolers in Brooklyn, NY. In her current role as Youth Development Coordinator at TFFJ, Paloma has been able to share her passion and expertise for food and nutrition to further support youth-led food justice work. Paloma has earned a BA in Psychology from NYU, a BS in Nutrition and Dietetics from Queens College, and an MPH with a concentration in community health from the CUNY School of Public Health and Health Policy.