



# Frequently Asked Questions

## Orchard

1. **What will I do at the orchard when I volunteer?**

Usually you will spend time picking, sorting, bagging, and boxing apples. In general, tasks will be whatever the needs of the orchard are on that day.

2. **What should I wear?**

Wear comfortable clothing that protects you from sun, wind, rain or whatever the current conditions are that day. Clothing that allows you to bend stretch lift, and that you are OK with if it gets dirty, muddy, or wet. Work gloves can be helpful and sturdy closed toed shoes are a must.

3. **How long is each volunteer shift?**

In general, each shift runs from 9:00 am to noon. This includes a brief welcome at the beginning and a wrap up at the end. There are exceptions to this as in rare cases we have shortened shifts due to inclement weather (thunder / lightning) and heat advisories, but plan to be busy for approximately 3 hours.

4. **What happens if it rains?**

Plan to get wet. :-)

5. **How do I know what to do and how to do it?**

We have a host of wonderful, wise, trained Team Leaders that bring each group to their task. Team Leaders explain what needs to be done and how best to do it. They can provide you with gloves, water, sunscreen if needed. Ask them any questions about CHP, our mission, and the varieties we grow - they are informative and engaging.

6. **What if I forget to bring something I need?**

We can help! We have sunscreen, bug spray, and work gloves if you forget to bring your own. You can refill your water bottle as well!

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7. **Are there bathrooms onsite?**

Yes. There are restrooms inside the barn at the orchard.

8. **I have a group that would like to volunteer together - how do I set that up?**

[Click on this link](#) and fill out the form with your preferred dates and we will contact you with confirmation.

9. **I really liked volunteering! How do I become a team leader?**

[Click on this link here](#), fill out and submit the form, and we will contact you to set up a time to chat!

10. **What do you grow at Community Harvest Project?**

We grow fruits and vegetables. Much of what we grow depends on what our farmer - at our Grafton location - and our orchardist - at our Harvard location - have planned for the season. At the orchard we grow a dozen varieties of apples, peaches, and we even have a field of asparagus! At the farm, most seasons we grow tomatoes, zucchini, soft and hard squashes, lettuces of all types, eggplants, okra, onions, kale, chard, flowers, and blueberries.

11. **How does Community Harvest Project grow so much food?**

With your help! Thousands of dedicated volunteers come each season to pick, pack, weed, tend, harvest, and prepare our fruits and vegetables for distribution to our partners. Volunteers come as individuals, families, and groups. The CHP team includes our Farmer, Farm Coordinator, Orchard Manager, Coordinator, Team Leaders, Interns, office support staff who plan and prepare our fields and orchards for the growing season, as well as handle volunteer efforts, fundraising and community outreach.

12. **What's up with the soap on sticks?**

We use Irish Spring as a deer deterrent as the deer don't like the smell of the soap.

13. **How can I donate?**

Thank you for asking! Please [click here](#) to donate online. Or, mail a check made out to Community Harvest Project to: CHP 37 Wheeler Road, North Grafton, MA 01536

14. **How do you get the food you grow out to people who need it?**

We partner with food banks, and food pantries, like the Worcester County Food Bank, Loaves and Fishes, Community Servings and others to help distribute food to those in need in Eastern and Central Massachusetts.

15. **Can I get Community Service hours volunteering with CHP?**

Yes. Make sure to pre-register (1st visit) and sign in each time you volunteer, to get

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credit for your visit.

16. **How can I become an intern for a season?**

For information about our intern program please send your inquiry to Wayne McAuliffe at [wayne@community-harvest.org](mailto:wayne@community-harvest.org)

**NOTE:**

CHP has TWO locations! Our farm is in Grafton and our Orchard is in Harvard. Please make sure you go to the appropriate location on your volunteer date.

**FARM**

**[Grafton Farm Address:](#)**

**37 Wheeler Rd.  
Grafton, MA**

**ORCHARD**

**[Orchard Harvard Address](#)**

**115 Prospect Hill Rd.  
Harvard, MA**

