



Orchard Frequently Asked Questions

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 and depend upon the time of year you visit the orchard..

2. **What should I wear?**

Wear comfortable clothing that protects you from the current conditions that day. Clothing that allows you to bend stretch lift, and that you are OK with if it gets dirty, muddy, or wet. Sturdy closed shoes toed are a must. Work boots, if you have them, are helpful. We will provide work gloves, but feel free to bring your own.

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

In general, each shift runs from 9:00 am to noon. 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. :-) If we hear thunder or see lightning, we take shelter and any remaining time left in the shift would likely be canceled.

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

We have a host of wonderful Team Leaders that will explain what needs to be done and how best to do it. 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 but it's best to remember to wear sunscreen and to bring your own refillable water bottle. You can refill your water bottle in the barn. (Please do not bring single use plastic water bottles if possible.) We will provide all tools needed for the work you will do.

7. **Are there bathrooms onsite?**

Yes. There are two 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 Farmers, 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 soap as a deer deterrent as the deer don't like the smell.

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 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

NOTE:

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

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

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

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

**37 Wheeler Rd.
Grafton, MA**

