



# Farm Frequently Asked Questions

**1. What will I do on the farm when I volunteer?**

Depending upon the season you could be planting, weeding, harvesting, tending, picking, packing, washing fruits and vegetables. You might make boxes, label and weigh produce - whatever the needs of the farm are on that day.

**2. What should I 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. Sturdy closed toed shoes are a must. Work boots, if you have them, can be better than sneakers in the fields. 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. :-) Wear gear to protect you from the elements. If there is thunder or lightning, we take shelter and would likely cancel any remaining time of the shift.

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

We have a host of wonderful Team Leaders that bring each group to their farm task. Team Leaders explain what needs to be done and how best to do the task. Ask them any questions about CHP, our mission, and the foods 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 inside the barn. (Please do not bring single use plastic water bottles if possible.)

**7. Are there bathrooms onsite?**

Yes. There are restrooms inside the barn and additional portable toilets on the property.

**8. Is there free parking onsite?**

Yes. If your group is especially large, we ask that you please encourage your team to carpool. There is free parking at the Mass Pike commuter lot (exit #96) and at the Stop and Shop at the bottom of Wheeler Road (100 Worcester Street in Grafton) where you can park and then carpool up the hill. If using the Stop and Shop lot, please park at the back, away from the shop entrance.

**9. 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.

**10. I really liked volunteering! How do I find out about all the possible volunteer opportunities?**

Click on the below links to discover more about the many ways you can help.

[Team Leader](#)

[Drop In volunteering in Grafton](#)

[Groups of 5 or more](#)

Specialty crews -Greenhouse, pruning, mowers, Tuesday crew, etc. Contact Wayne McAuliffe to find out if one of these crews is right for you at 774-551-6544

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

Much of what we grow depends on what our farmer has planned for the season. Most seasons we grow tomatoes, zucchini, soft and hard squashes, lettuces of all types, eggplants, okra, onions, kale, chard, apples, flowers, sweet potatoes, and blueberries. At the orchard we grow a dozen varieties of apples, peaches, and asparagus!

**12. 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 orchard for the growing season, as well as handle volunteer efforts, fundraising and community outreach.

**13. 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.

**14. How can I donate?**

Thank you for asking! Please [click here](#) to donate online. Or, mail a check made out to

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Community Harvest Project to: CHP 37 Wheeler Road, North Grafton, MA 01536

**15. 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.

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

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

**17. 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

