



Volunteer Information

At Black Creek Community Farm (BCCF) we strive to provide opportunities for community members to engage with our project in a direct, hands-on way. Our volunteers are instrumental not only in the growing of food, but also essential in the development of the project as a whole.

Our volunteer program endeavours to accomplish the following:

- Provide a meaningful experience to volunteers.
- Provide a safe working environment for both staff and volunteers.
- Respect the knowledge, experience, and resources contributed by volunteers.
- Create a volunteer program that supports (and does not detract from) the project's goals and ambitions.

What volunteers can expect from BCCF:

- 1) A safe and inclusive environment.
- 2) Instruction, training, and support from project staff.
- 3) Exposure to the many different components of organic agriculture and community development.

What BCCF expects from volunteers:

- 1) Integrity and accountability.
- 2) A willingness to learn and respect farm policies and practices.
- 3) A commitment to anti-oppression and anti-racism as laid out in BCCF policy.

Application process:

Prospective volunteers are asked to apply to the volunteer program and are placed on the basis of program requirements, the skills and experience of the applicant and, when appropriate, successful reference checks and a police record search.

Volunteers may be required to attend an orientation before beginning their placements.

Priority for volunteer placement is given to members of the Jane-Finch/Black Creek Community.

Physical requirements and gear:

Farming is hard work. We work long days under all kinds of weather conditions completing physically demanding tasks. If you wish to volunteer with the farm staff, you need to be prepared to work just as hard and to get just as dirty.

Please come prepared with appropriate clothing and gear:

- sun protection (a sunhat, sunglasses, sunscreen and/or long sleeves)
- close-toed shoes/boots
- refillable water bottle
- gardening gloves (we have a few extra pairs)

We will provide all other tools and equipment required for the activities you assist with.

Note: There are often volunteer opportunities available that require less physically intensive work, such as helping at events or at our markets. For more information contact volunteer@blackcreekfarm.ca or (416) 393-6381.

Volunteer opportunities at BCCF:

Most of our volunteer opportunities occur between 8am and 5pm on weekdays, however we have a few opportunities to become involved on weekday evenings and on Saturdays.

There are two ways to volunteer at BCCF:

1. Become a regular volunteer:

In order to provide volunteers with the support and training they need to have a meaningful experience at the farm, we are limited in how many volunteers we can accommodate each day. Regular volunteers are asked to make a commitment of at least 3-4 hours per week for a minimum of six weeks.

Current volunteer opportunities are posted at <https://www.timecounts.org/blackcreekfarm>. You can also contact the volunteer coordinator for a current list of regular volunteer opportunities.

2. Become an occasional volunteer: Participate in special events or work bees.

New opportunities in this category will arise throughout the season. Please check our Timecounts hub for upcoming occasional volunteer opportunities, or sign up to receive updates to your inbox.

Working Share program:

This program is available to members of the Jane and Finch/Black Creek community who are interested in receiving produce in exchange for regular work on the farm. Participants make a minimum commitment of 4 hours per week for at least one month and receive a

share of vegetables at our Harvest Share pickup/Saturday market. This program is intended to serve as a pathway to accessing our food for community members that may not otherwise be able to purchase it. **If you are comfortable paying for the food outright, please consider volunteering outside of the Working Share program.**

Contact the Volunteer Coordinator volunteer@blackcreekfarm.ca or (416)393-6381 if you are interested in participating in the Working Share program.

Weather policy:

Outdoor volunteer placements will run rain or shine. Please come prepared for weather conditions (rain gear, warm clothing, sun protection, etc). Outdoor work will cease in the event of thunder and lightning.

Signing in and out:

Volunteers are asked to record their hours for every volunteer shift. Volunteers have an incredible impact on what the project is able to accomplish and we want to make sure that we are tracking and recognizing this contribution.

For more information, please visit <http://www.blackcreekfarm.ca/volunteer/> or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@blackcreekfarm.ca or call (416) 393-6381.

Thanks for your interest!