

**NIRMALA'S FARMSTEAD FOUNDATION VOLUNTEER APPLICATION**

We receive numerous inquiries each season from those interested in volunteering and certainly welcome and encourage people to experience the farm and work alongside us. However, being a working farm we have a certain pace and standards that we must meet and accepting volunteers can be both a benefit and a challenge. Please be sure to read through our Volunteer Expectations before submitting an application. Longer term volunteers may be asked to do a phone interview/farm visit. We look forward to meeting and working with you!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please answer the following questions:**

1. Why do you want to volunteer at the Nirmala's Farmstead Foundation?
2. What is your main area of interest in volunteering? Vegetables, Flowers, Herbs, livestock, other?
3. Do you have any previous farm experience?
4. Do you have any previous experience doing physical work?
5. Do you have any physical limitations?
6. How long would you like to volunteer with us (both hours per day/week and time frame)
7. Will you need housing in order to volunteer?

## VOLUNTEER EXPECTATIONS

- Arrive on time and be ready to work in various weather conditions.
- Be conscious of the forecast for the day and prepare accordingly. Be sure to bring a hat, work gloves, sturdy shoes, water bottle, sunscreen, rain gear and appropriate layers for the time of year. We work outdoors most of the day in the heat and sun.
- Follow Instructions: Listen carefully to any instructions given throughout the day, listen and watch during all demonstrations, and ask questions if clarification is needed.
- Pace: We must keep a certain pace in order to get everything done. We are more than happy to show you how we do things, but also ask that you try your best to keep up. Be conscious of whether conversation is getting in the way of the job at hand. Ask for help if you are struggling with any given task.
- Cellphone/Electronics: Please refrain from using your cellphone while working except for in the case of an emergency. Headphones are prohibited unless working alone and away from heavy equipment. You may be asked to turn music down if it is getting in the way of work.
- We are a smoke-free campus. Smoking is prohibited in any farm buildings or vehicles and during work hours. If you must smoke you must do so in designated areas out of view of children. Volunteers or employees who smoke during their breaks are asked to wash their hands. Tobacco mosaic virus can be spread to crops in the nightshade family (tomatoes) without proper hygienic precautions.
- Take care of tools and farm equipment by keeping them clean and returning them to their proper locations.
- Be open to new experiences and ways of doing things.
- Be respectful of the farm and farm employees.