



VOLUNTEERS WANTED – PILOT VOLUNTEER PROGRAM - OAK SPRING GARDEN FOUNDATION

The Biocultural Conservation Farm (BCCF), on the Rokeby estate at the Oak Spring Garden Foundation, supplies local food banks, supports visitors studying and working at Oak Spring and sustains a small Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program. In this pilot Volunteer Program we are looking for a small number of volunteers to assist mainly with vegetable and fruit production through to the end of October. If this pilot BCCF Volunteer Program is a success we plan to expand it in 2022.

<p><u>Volunteer title:</u> BCCF Volunteer 2021 (Pilot Program)</p>
<p><u>Department:</u> The Biocultural Conservation Farm (BCCF)</p>
<p><u>Volunteer supervisor:</u> Christine Harris</p>
<p><u>Location(s) for volunteer work:</u> BCCF on the Rokeby Estate</p>
<p><u>Overall purpose of the volunteer role:</u> Volunteers on the Biocultural Conservation Farm volunteers to play an integral role in the success and future development of the farm. Volunteers will walk away with learned skills in farming and gardening, while also giving back to the community through their support in the production of food for local food pantries and a small 'Community Supported Agriculture' (CSA) program.</p>
<p><u>Main volunteer tasks:</u> Volunteers will mainly help with weeding and harvesting vegetables/fruits/herbs. Depending on the daily task list for a given day, volunteers may also help with collecting and processing saved seeds, seeding or transplanting crops, cleaning harvest bins or seed trays, watering plants, etc.</p>
<p><u>What skills do volunteers need?</u> Some prior gardening/farming experience is preferred, but not required. Our team will equip you with the knowledge and training every step of the way! Individuals should feel comfortable working in a team setting, as well as working alone if the need arises. Applicants should be prepared to use tools properly and as demonstrated by the Biocultural Conservation Farm team. Tools that may be used include harvesting knives, pruners, shovels, garden hoes, and more.</p>

What do volunteers need to bring? Volunteers are encouraged to wear clothes and close-toed shoes/boots that they don't mind getting dirty. Additional items to bring on a daily basis include: a sunhat/baseball cap, rain jacket, water bottle and sunscreen. Drinking water, and all personal protective equipment necessary to carry out assigned tasks, will be provided.

Duration and hours for volunteers Pilot program September through October; Monday to Thursday; 08:00 to noon. We are asking our volunteers to commit to a minimum of one 4-hour shift per week for the remainder of the growing season (roughly until end of October).

How many volunteers are needed? No more than 3 per day up to a maximum of 12 individuals in this pilot program.

Notes about working environment/strenuous activity: Volunteers should be comfortable working outdoors in a variety of conditions, including extreme heat (>90°F) and cold (<40°F), depending on the season. Other outdoor conditions may include rain, biting/stinging insects, extended sun exposure and/or strong winds. The BCCF team, as well as volunteers, work rain or shine. If the weather impedes outdoor work, we move indoors (where tasks are still abundant!).