

Prairie Crossing Learning Farm

Volunteer Opportunities

Are you interested in learning more about growing organic food and educating others about where our food comes from? Would you like to get hands-on experience working on a farm or with youth? We offer many volunteer opportunities, and we need you!

We are looking for dedicated volunteers to fill the following positions:

Special Projects Task Force

Members of the Special Projects Task Force will assist with a variety of maintenance projects at the farm including weeding, mulching, planting and building. The group works side by side with a Learning Farm staff person on projects that are crucial to the success of the Learning Farm. Always an important project to do, always a lot of fun! No previous experience necessary. Children are welcome, but need to come supervised by an adult.

Time commitment: 1st Saturday of each month from 8-11:30 am.

Farm Friend

Are you interested in learning and carrying out basic farm chores? We have chickens to care for, plants to water and areas to be kept tidy. As a Farm Friend, you will be responsible for strolling the Learning Farm property and taking care of chores that keep the farm thriving. No previous experience necessary. Children are welcome if supervised by an adult.

Time commitment: 1 or more hours per week. Day and time can be decided upon between Learning Farm staff and volunteer.

Henhouse Helper

This dedicated group of volunteers helps take care of our flock of free-range chickens. Henhouse Helpers sign up for one or more shifts per week for the spring, summer, or fall session. Volunteers are trained by a Learning Farm staff person, and then come to the farm on their own to feed the laying hens and collect, wash, and package the eggs. No previous experience necessary. Children are welcome if supervised by an adult. Reliable substitutes are always needed as well for occasional fill-in.

Time commitment: Approximately 1 hour per week for one or more sessions. Spring, summer, and fall sessions are each about 3 months long. Available shifts are Monday-Sunday, 9-10am or 3-4pm each day.

Plant Sale Worker and Partner

The Organic Plant Sale is an annual event in partnership with the Prairie Crossing Charter School that raises funds, educates about organic gardening, and serves as a successful service learning project. A wide range of volunteer roles come together to make the Organic Plant Sale a success.

Plant Sale Workers spend the dreary March days in a 70 degree oasis, surrounded by lush, green seedlings and learn about growing plants from seed. No previous experience necessary.

Time commitment: 15-90 minutes per week from March through May. Available shifts are Monday-Sunday, between 8-10am or 2-4pm each day as waterers or greenhouse workers.

Plant Sale Partners hold key coordination roles for specific parts of the event. Specific roles include: Sponsorship; Food and Drink; Raffle; Pot Recycle; Activities; Photographer. Previous experience relevant to each role is preferred.

Time commitment: 1+ hours per week. Partners may attend relevant Plant Sale Planning meetings.

Children's Farm Camp Assistants

Children's Farm Camp Assistants help the Camp Educators in daily camp activities and act as positive role models to campers ages 3 through 9. Camp Assistants must be a minimum of 12 years of age, complete a background check, and have previous experience working with children. Applications accepted from February through May. Interviews and orientation occur in early May.

Time commitment: Camp Assistants are asked to commit to one or more full camp sessions, which range from 1.25 to 2.5 hours long, four days a week, for two-week sessions.

Special Event Volunteers

Make a Difference Day – held in October

The Learning Farm partners up with the College of Lake County every year to participate in this national volunteer day. Volunteers of all ages can help with fall tasks in the fields and in the Children's Garden from for a few hours on the designated day. This is a great way to make a difference as well as learn a little something!

Edible Harvest Festival – First Sunday in October

The Learning Farm also looks for volunteers to help specifically with our children's activities during the Edible Harvest Festival that is held once every year. We offer various demonstrations and/or activities at this event. All activities are lots of fun and very popular with children. This is a great volunteer opportunity for parents and children to work together while having fun!

Organic Plant Sale – Saturday before Mother's Day

See descriptions above.

Service Learning Opportunity

Does your school expect you to create a service learning project or complete community service hours? We offer various opportunities to meet these requirements at our organic farm. Contact Farm Educator, Erica Hill Pfeiffer, at 847-548-4062 x 17 or epfeiffer@prairiecrossing.com to get started.

Interested in any of these volunteer opportunities?

Contact Dorie Roth at droth@prairiecrossing.com or 847-548-4062 x11.

The Learning Farm is located off of Route 45, just South of Route 120 in the Prairie Crossing community in Grayslake.