



VOLUNTEERING ON EVERDALE'S HILLSBURGH FARM

Thank you for considering Everdale as a place to volunteer.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

Volunteers work along side staff, students, and other volunteers. They must be prepared for long days with lots of repetitive farming tasks in all kinds of weather. Everdale is a dynamic place with lots of things going on. We are multi-taskers. If you like a totally predictable environment with lots of routine then Everdale may not be the place for you. However, we do have a solid working structure and we strive to follow several principals such as: being respectful, open, and flexible; working with purpose and intention; maintaining a well-managed and orderly farm and learning facility; and having a glass-half-full attitude.

THE WORK DAY:

Volunteers work the same amount as other farm staff: 50 hour week from Tuesday to Saturday. Be prepared for early mornings (could be 6am start) and a fast paced environment. Be prepared to work in the rain. Sometimes we'll ask you to work longer then 10 hours on a given day (for example, when we're trying to finish a big harvest or preparing for a special public event) in exchange for working fewer hours on another day. We need everyone to be open-minded and flexible. We have found that a strong interest or dedication to organic farming is essential. Farming is hard and rewarding work.

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS:

Volunteers sleep in tents and share the other facilities (kitchen, washrooms, and common areas) with students, staff and other volunteers. Volunteers need to bring their own tent, camping mattress and sleeping bag or bedding. We have many beautiful camping sites scattered around the property.

FOOD:

Eating well and enjoying meals is important to us. We want to make sure that you have plenty to eat and that it is wholesome and in accordance with your needs. There is a common kitchen with a well-stocked pantry. All food is provided. Most meals are shared and we take turns cooking and cleaning up. All of our shared meals offer vegetarian and/or vegan alternatives. Please mention any dietary restrictions when you are applying.

SHARING SPACE:

Everdale is a busy farm & learning centre. Everyone needs to be cooperative and fair-minded in order for things to go smoothly. The property is a lot busier than most farms (with school groups, people coming for workshops, CSA pick-ups, tours, etc.). Volunteers have to be able to share the community centre kitchen and living area and not treat it as their private space. We need each person to be responsible for keeping things in working order. This means cleaning up, washing dishes and cleaning the kitchen after each meal, not leaving your personal belongings lying around, and putting tools and other items back in their proper place as soon as you are finished with them.

**ARRIVING AT EVERDALE:**

Although it is not essential, we prefer that volunteers arrive on Monday to get set-up and settled in. Please advise the volunteer coordinator of your plans.

GETTING AROUND:

There is no vehicle available for volunteers to drive. If you need to go somewhere you need to coordinate a ride with the students or other Everdale staff. Bring your bike! It's a short ride to the village of Hillsburgh and there is a bike trail close at hand.

FOOTWEAR:

During work, you must wear shoes or boots at all times. Barefeet or sandals are not acceptable footwear for work.

LENGTH OF STAY:

The duration of a volunteer's stay is determined by the volunteer and by the Everdale staff. We require a minimum of a week stay, but we prefer volunteers that can be here for 2 weeks or more. We ask that volunteers tell us the dates that they are planning to be here, but they are not bound by any agreement to stay a particular length of time. We understand that plans can change. In the past, volunteers have often extended or shortened their intended stay. By the same token, we also reserve the right to terminate a volunteer's stay if things aren't working out or plans change.

ARRANGING YOUR STAY:

If interested please contact the volunteer coordinator. Let us know why you are interested in coming to Everdale and what dates you have in mind. Please try to book in advance as we have limited space. International volunteers will need to have health coverage before they arrive. We not able to help international volunteers obtain visas.

Contact:

David Alexander

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Essential items to bring when volunteering

- **Waterproof tent and camping mattress**
- **Rain coat, pants and boots** (boots or close-toed shoes are required for all farm work)
- **Clothing and a towel** (you will get dirty)
- **Battery powered alarm clock**
- **Health Card or Health Insurance**
- **Hat, Sunblock, Water Bottle etc**