



Farm to Home Harvest Crew

Applications are being accepted for the Fall 2019 harvest season!

Tuesday Crew Dates: Sept. 24 (orientation), Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Nov. 5, 12, 19, & Dec. 3, 10

Friday Crew Dates: Sept. 27 (orientation), Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, & Dec. 6, 13

Rolling Application Deadline: September 13, 2019

What is *Farm to Home*?

- The *Farm to Home Harvest Crew* is a therapeutic-vocational program in which individuals receiving services at the UNC Center for Excellence in Community Mental Health harvest and pack bags for the *Farm to Home Produce Packs Program* in a supportive environment and have the opportunity to socialize with peers and staff during lunch. The *Produce Packs Program* distributes weekly bags of fresh, organic vegetables and eggs from the Farm at Penny Lane that are delivered to individuals impacted by mental illness and chronic health conditions who live on a fixed income, for a nominal fee.

Is this a job?

A position on the Farm to Home Harvest Crew is voluntary, but treated like a job. There is no pay, but there are benefits:

- A bag of farm produce to take home each week
- Vocational skills training
- Resume builder
- The opportunity to give back to the community by making nutritious food accessible to others
- The opportunity to connect and collaborate with other clients on the crew
- Lunch as a group and the opportunity to practice cooking skills.

How is the program structured?

- A single crew of 2-3 individuals works together each week for the entire season.
- Crew members arrive 10 minutes before 9AM for a brief gathering, announcements, and settling in.
- Harvest is completed in a focused manner between 9-11:30AM.
- At 11:30, crew gathers in farmhouse for lunch, preparing one item from today's harvest together. Lunchtime is an opportunity to relax by yourself or catch up with one another.

- At 12:30, the harvest is pulled from cold storage and packed into produce packs for delivery to other clients by UNC CECMH staff.
- Clean-up, wrap-up, and departure by 2PM.

What are the requirements?

While no experience is necessary to apply, applicants must meet certain requirements. Crew members must be able to:

- Make a weekly commitment for the full 10-week season (1 week off is OK).
- Be on your feet for up to 3 hours at a time, including some bending and squatting and light lifting.
- Work outdoors in all types of weather.
- Have a reliable way to get to the Farm or be able to get to Carr Mill Mall to access the Farm shuttle.

What skills will I practice?

Hard skills:

- Recognizing crops and judging their readiness for harvest
- Harvest technique as practiced by market farmers
- Post-harvest handling for shelf-life and food safety
- Weighing, bunching, bagging, and packing CSA-style produce shares

Soft skills:

- Attention to detail
- Following verbal directions and step-by-step processes
- Working as a team
- Accomplishing a task on a time budget
- Punctuality and reliability

How can I apply?

A paper application is available and can be returned in person, email or by mail to

Matt Ballard

Program Manager

263 Penny Lane

Pittsboro, NC 27312

matthew_ballard@med.unc.edu

Office: 919-445-0665

Cell: 919-533-9397

Applications are due Friday, September 13. Upon receipt of your application, you will be contacted for an in-person interview with Jessamine Hyatt, Farm Manager, and Matt Ballard, Program Manager.

Farm to Home Crew Application

Thank you for your interest in volunteering at the Farm at Penny Lane.

Completed applications are due by Friday, September 13, 2019.

* Required

Volunteer Contact Information

1. First name *

2. Last name *

3. Primary phone number *

4. Email address *

5. What is the best way to contact you? *

Mark only one oval.

- Phone
- Email
- Text message
- Any of the above

Crew Qualifications

6. Do you currently participate or have you previously participated in Farm programs or volunteer work days? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No

7. Please check all that apply. *

Check all that apply.

- 1. I have my own transportation or am able to catch the Farm Shuttle from Carr Mill Mall.
- 2. I am able to be on my feet for 3 hours and to bend and squat repeatedly during a 1-2 hour period
- 3. I am able and willing to work outdoors in all weather (cold, heat, rain, shine).
- 4. I am available to work EITHER every Tuesday OR every Friday from 8:50am-2pm the weeks of Sept. 22 through December 9
- 5. I am able to commit to working one morning a week (Tuesday or Friday) for the full 11 weeks. Up to 2 absences are OK with advance notice. If I have to be absent more than that, I understand that the Farm will need to try to fill my slot with a candidate who can participate more consistently.

8. While no experience is necessary to apply, we would love to hear about any experience you've had that you think may be relevant to your participation in this program. *

9. Please let us know about any medical concerns we should be aware of such as allergies, activity restrictions (e.g. no heavy lifting) or other concerns. *

Volunteer Objectives

10. Which day are you interested in volunteering? *

Mark only one oval.

- Tuesday
- Friday
- No preference

11. In a few sentences, please let us know why you are interested in participating on the Farm to Home Harvest Crew. *

12. Are there any particular skills you would like to develop while serving on this crew? *

Expectations

What you can expect from us:

- Patient training in the methods of harvest and post-harvest handling of fresh produce
- Skills and confidence in participating in a produce distribution system
- The experience of working with a supportive team to accomplish a complex task on a time budget
- Sharpening of your skills in following instructions and step-by-step processes
- The knowledge that you are contributing to the well-being of others
- Experience to add to your resume
- The opportunity to receive job references from farm staff (let us know in your interview if you are interested in this)
- A produce bag to take home for each full shift worked
- A full hour for a nutritious lunch and instruction in basic cooking skills

What we will expect from you:

- To arrive on time and stay for the duration of the shift each week of your session
- To participate fully in all the activities of harvesting, washing, bunching, bagging, weighing, recording, and packing bags, as well as set-up and clean-up
- To comply with the Farm's hygiene practices for the purpose of food safety
- To be respectful of the confidentiality of the produce bag recipients
- To put your best effort into learning how the Farm wants the harvesting and packing to be done, and to approach the work as an act of service to those who will be receiving the food
- To offer your feedback about the program to Farm staff in an honest and constructive manner
- To provide as much advance notice as possible if you will have to miss a shift, arrive late, or leave early

13. If you agree to all of these statements, please enter your full name below.

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