

Volunteer FAQs



Q: I want to help City Harvest. How do I get started?

A: All new individual volunteers must complete a [Volunteer Orientation](#). Additional training after the orientation is required for Nutrition Education volunteer opportunities. Once you have attended an orientation, you will receive an email inviting you to begin registering for projects. You will not be able to register for, or hold spots at, projects until you have attended an orientation and are marked as trained.

Q: Do I have to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to volunteer with City Harvest?

A: Yes, all volunteers are required to be fully vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus. Please upload proof of vaccination through the [portal](#).

Q: Do you have internship or community service opportunities?

A: Internship opportunities with City Harvest will be posted [on our website](#). The Volunteer Services Team has limited opportunities for individuals that are seeking hours for course credit. City Harvest is able to provide a proof of volunteer hours on letterhead. We are unable to sign any court-mandated documents or provide recommendation letters.

Q: Why can't I see any upcoming projects or orientations?

A: Our projects orientations are listed on a rolling basis. The [calendar](#) accurately displays all availability. Once a project has been filled, it will be removed from the calendar. Similarly, should someone cancel, their spot will reappear on the calendar. If you have registered and know that you can't attend, kindly make room for someone else by logging in to your profile and canceling your shift!

Q: What are the age requirements for volunteering?

A: All of our projects are suitable for individuals that are 18 years or older. However, we do have select opportunities for volunteers under 18. Mobile Markets are suitable for individuals who are 14 years of age or older. Our Greenmarket rescues are suitable for individuals that are 11 years of age or older. All individuals under 18 must be accompanied by an adult over the age of 21 to all shifts they participate in and complete the Release and Waiver (available on the [resources](#) section of our portal) prior to volunteering. Children under 11 can support City Harvest's work by coordinating a [food drive](#).

Q: I volunteered with my organization, Do I need to attend an orientation?

A: Thank you for volunteering with us! Since you already participated with your group, you are eligible to sign up for any of our general volunteer projects. However, we do recommend you attend an orientation so you are up-to-date on all of our project offerings and policies.

Q: I work a 9-5, do you have opportunities for me?

A: Yes, we have a number of activities for you! Schedules vary depending on the season. [Click here](#) to see what is available on weekends or in the evening.

Q: How do I travel to the volunteer site?

A: Sites vary, but all are accessible via mass transit. Use Google maps to plan your trip the night before, and check the MTA website for any service changes or delays the day you'll be volunteering. We encourage you to plan your travel in advance, especially if you are unfamiliar with the area.

Q: Is timing flexible?

A: Most volunteer opportunities last 2-3 hours, and we ask that you arrive on time and stay until the activity is over and you are dismissed by City Harvest Staff.

Q: What should I wear and bring?

A: Since most volunteers are working with food, please wear comfortable, closed-toe athletic shoes (no flip flops, ballet flats or sandals). Please also wear casual clothing that you do not mind getting dirty. Dress for the weather, tie long hair back and avoid loose jewelry. For office-based projects, business casual is acceptable. Storage is minimal at our volunteer sites and we ask that you bring few personal items with you.

Q: Is heavy lifting involved?

A: We suggest that all volunteers feel comfortable lifting at least 15 pounds for repacks and Mobile Markets, and at least 30 pounds for food rescues.

Q: Will the project be cancelled because of weather?

A: All of our volunteer events happen rain, snow, or shine! In the rare event that a project is cancelled due to inclement weather, volunteers will be notified by City Harvest staff or your volunteer leader

Q: How can I volunteer for Nutrition Education?

A: Our Nutrition Education volunteer program has been put on pause as our Nutrition Education Team has been managing virtual lessons and cooking demos. When we are able to welcome volunteers back to our Nutrition Education program we will share the news!

To learn more, please contact:
volunteerservices@cityharvest.org

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