

Wolfe's Neck Farm

Volunteer Opportunities 2017

Wolfe's Neck Farm is a farm-based educational nonprofit dedicated to promoting sustainable agriculture, food systems education, and outdoor recreation. As a working farm within a unique mix of ecosystems, we offer a remarkable and inspiring place for visitors of all ages to learn and play.

We could not accomplish all that we do without the ongoing support of our volunteers. From working during our events to helping our Teen Ag crew in the field, there are many ways to get involved.

We welcome volunteers who are dedicated to our mission and accept applications on a rolling basis. Please note, however, that our volunteer opportunities (and our capacity to coordinate them) may be limited depending on the time of year. Below is a general list of our volunteer opportunities.

COMMUNICATIONS: ON-THE-GROUND PHOTOGRAPHERS

Settled on 626 acres of preserved land, it is a challenge to capture the array of moments happening around Wolfe's Neck Farm during the year. Volunteers work with Allison Carrier, Marketing & Communications Assistant, to help showcase the beauty of this place by roaming the grounds and using their camera to snapshot special, unique images that represent Wolfe's Neck Farm. We'll include these in our database as potential photos for us to use in our marketing efforts.

COMMUNICATIONS: DISTRIBUTING PUBLICITY MATERIALS

Making a trip to Portland, Brunswick, or anywhere in between? Prior to several of our events, we need volunteer help to distribute promotional materials around town. Working with Allison Carrier, Marketing & Communications Assistant, volunteers stop into local cafes, stores, and libraries and ask to hang posters (don't worry, we'll give you a list of places we've gone to in the past). Make a game of it – see how many places you can hang posters in a 30-minute time limit!

COMMUNICATIONS: HISTORICAL PHOTOS PROJECT

Wolfe's Neck Farm – as it is today – would not have been possible without the foresight of the Smith family in the 1960s. Volunteers work with Allison Carrier, Marketing & Communications Assistant, to digitally archive the invaluable photos that showcase the farm's history. Tasks will include sorting through boxes of old photos, scanning them, and creating an organized system to store them in our database. This position requires volunteers to be on their feet for the majority of their volunteer shift.

COMMUNICATIONS: PUBLICIZING EVENTS ONLINE

Computer savvy and like to get into a rhythm? Working with Allison Carrier, Marketing & Communications Assistant, volunteers help ensure all of our seasonal events are shared on local online community calendars. Using their own computer, volunteers will be given a list of events and a list of websites to plug in the details. With your help, we can spread the word about all that is happening at Wolfe's Neck Farm!

EDUCATIONAL GARDENS

Wolfe's Neck Farm's educational gardens are an integral component of our education programming. These gardens serve as an outdoor classroom for adults and children alike, and support the many gardening lessons geared towards our field trip students and summer campers that visit the farm throughout the spring, summer, and fall. Volunteers work with Richard Hodges, Teen Ag Coordinator, and Jen Rowland, Education & Administrative Coordinator, to maintain these gardens by planting, mulching, weeding, and harvesting as well as putting the gardens to rest at the end of the season. Since the farm is open to the public year-round, volunteers should enjoy interacting with adults and children. This is physical work that involves moderate bending, pulling, and lifting.

EVENTS

Wolfe's Neck Farm's events often serve as the key entry point for community members to visit the farm and take part in an experience beyond visiting on their own. Our event season kicks off in June with our Spring Festival and runs through December, ending with our annual Night Tree reading and winter celebration. Our farm-to-table dinner series typically features meals that highlight our own meat and produce served by our restaurant partners. Our Harvest Dance is a rowdy good time with food trucks, music, and dancing, and requires many helping hands to run efficiently. Volunteers work with Morgan Bleimeyer, Events Coordinator, to help set up and break down, as well as ensure events run smoothly. For most events there are two shifts: the morning set up, and the afternoon/evening running of the event. Work is often physical and requires moving picnic tables and hay bales and setting up a large space, though there are always less-physically-demanding tasks that are just as important. In addition, since these are public events, volunteers should enjoy interacting with adults and children. Enjoy free event admission and be a part of the festivities!

EVENT DEMONSTRATORS/VENDORS

Wolfe's Neck Farm's events often serve as the key entry point for community members to visit the farm and take part in an experience beyond visiting on their own. For select events, we seek volunteers who have agriculturally-based hobbies or businesses interested in demonstrating their skills or selling their wares (for example, you are a fiber artist and are happy to come spin wool at one of our festivals). Since these are public events, volunteers should enjoy interacting with adults and children. Enjoy free event admission and be a part of the festivities!

FLOWER GARDENS

Volunteers work with Jen Rowland, Education & Administrative Coordinator, to maintain our perennial and annual flower gardens around the property. Our goal is to have flower gardens that sustain biological diversity, require minimal inputs, and look beautiful. Tasks include handwork such as planting, weeding, mulching, harvesting and general garden maintenance. Since the farm is open to the public year-round, volunteers should enjoy interacting with adults and children. This is physical work that involves moderate bending, pulling, and lifting.

TEEN AG

The vital role food can play in supporting the health and vitality of individuals, communities, and the environment is fundamental to Wolfe's Neck Farm, and our Teen Ag program involves youth in multiple aspects of this. Volunteers work with Richard Hodges, Teen Ag Coordinator, Tom Prohl, Production Educator, and our Teen Ag Crew members to maintain our fields through a diversity of tasks including field preparation, transplanting, cultivation, harvesting and maintaining a 5-acre production area. Specifically, volunteers will help maintain our strawberry and perennial patches as well as the edges of our Community Gardens. Although much of this work involves weeding and mulching, there will be ample opportunity to enjoy field-fresh fruit while enjoying breathtaking views of Casco Bay! Volunteers should enjoy interacting with adults and teenagers. This is physical work that involves moderate bending, pulling, and lifting during most weather conditions.

VISITOR EXPERIENCE: GROUNDS UPKEEP

Wolfe's Neck Farm's vast acreage serves as the backdrop to many families' meaningful and memorable experiences during the spring, summer, and fall. As the snow retreats in the spring, we always discover leaves, branches, and other debris that winter leaves behind across the farm, campground, and our trail system. Working with Bill Horsfall, Outdoor Maintenance Manager, volunteers will tidy our common areas, campsites, and trails by raking leaves, clearing brush, and generally making all of these areas welcoming to the public and our guests. Volunteers who identify themselves as having particular skillsets, such as gardening, painting, or carpentry, may be assigned to projects that utilize their skills. This is physical work that involves moderate bending, pulling, and lifting during most weather conditions. Bring weather-appropriate clothing and footwear, a rake, and work gloves!