

## **Shepherd's Corner Ecology Center**

### **Volunteer Information and Agreement**

The Dominican Sisters of Peace and the Advisory Council of Shepherd's Corner Ecology Center welcome you as a volunteer. We are very thankful that you have chosen to share your energy and expertise to advance the mission Shepherd's Corner. We have created this information sheet to explain the Center and your role as a Center volunteer. We hope that you enjoy your experience as a volunteer and that you continue your involvement as time permits.

#### **Overview**

##### **A Brief History**

Shepherd's Corner began in 1992 as a response to the challenge of caring for the 160 acres owned by the Dominican Sisters (St. Mary of the Springs, Columbus, OH). Three sisters began a ground-breaking ministry linking the Dominican mission to care for Earth. Through the efforts of the sisters/staff, volunteers, donors and with the on-going support of the Dominican Sisters, Shepherd's Corner utilized the site's extensive natural resources and developed programs which served as an educational, spiritual, and service opportunity for a wide variety of people.

##### **Mission**

Shepherd's Corner Ecology Center invites others to join with us in experiencing the joys and responsibilities of caring for land, life, and spirit, inspiring others to become shepherds of creation in their own corners of the world.

##### **Vision**

Shepherd's Ecology Center is positioning itself to be an Earth-centered leader in the Central Ohio community: teaching environmental education, offering reflective experiences on care of creation, and renewing the land while providing healthy, naturally grown produce.

##### **Tag Line**

Caring for Land, Life and Spirit

#### **General Information**

This Volunteer Information sheet is designed to assist you to better understand the expectations of you as a volunteer. There is a variety of seasonal tasks at Shepherd's Corner. Late Spring through late Fall are the times of greatest need of volunteers. The food pantry garden, mowing of grass areas, trimming of the labyrinth and meditation trail and general landscaping around the Barn require on-going attention during the warmer months. Animal care is a year-long need in the morning and evening each day. Each of these tasks requires different skills, energy levels, and physical stamina. Youth need to be 14 years or more to volunteer independently and 18

years or older to do animal chores. Parents/guardians need to accompany younger children. Adult volunteers of any age are welcome as are groups from churches, schools, and organizations. Background checks are required for adult volunteers. Volunteers are asked not to smoke on the property. Shepherd's Corner is also drug-free and weapons-free zone.

## **How to Become a Volunteer**

### **Application Form**

A Volunteer Application form is available at Shepherd's Corner's website [www.shepherdscorner.org](http://www.shepherdscorner.org). Volunteers under 18 years need a parent/guardian's signature. Volunteers are asked to note any physical restrictions limiting ability to perform certain tasks. Allergies need to be listed also along with any other medical concerns. Please sign the waiver on your application form.

### **Orientation**

After the volunteer application is received, phone or email contact will be made to cover any basic questions the applicant or Shepherd's Corner's volunteer coordinator may have. If there is mutual interest in continuing the application process, the volunteer will be invited to meet with the volunteer coordinators for an orientation session about Shepherd's Corner and volunteering possibilities. The volunteer coordinators will give a tour of the facilities, land, and an opportunity to meet the animals. The volunteer will have the opportunity to sign the Volunteer agreement at the end of the orientation.

## **Policies and Procedures**

### **Conservation**

As an environmental education organization, Shepherd's Corner is committed to the wise use of natural resources. We focus on reducing waste, reusing materials, and recycling. We expect staff and volunteers to support caring for creation through these conservation efforts. Our success depends on your creativity and involvement. We encourage all groups not use bottled water.

### **Recycling**

We recycle aluminum, paper, glass, plastic, cardboard, and tin cans. It is the responsibility of staff and volunteers to deposit recycling material in the appropriate bins inside or in the yellow covered bin outside.

## Volunteer Agreement

I have read and agree to abide by the expectations as identified in this agreement:

- Physically present myself in a manner that is appropriate for the task(s) assigned.
- Treat staff, other volunteers, and visitors in a positive and respectful manner.
- Notify staff in advance, if possible, of inability to attend a special event or perform volunteer service assignment.
- Return any used items/tools to their proper location after use.
- Not disclose any confidential information shared or become aware of while volunteering.
- Not enter animal areas without a staff person.
- Have the appropriate instructions for the use of any equipment.
- Respect Shepherd's Corner policy of no drugs, smoking or firearms on the property.
- Honor the policy of no pets on the property out of respect for visitors and the safety of our animals.
- Have a background check (if over 18).

I grant permission for my name and likeness (photo, video, etc.) to be utilized with Shepherd's Corner publications and publicity. Finally, I understand that any product of my volunteer service is the sole property of Shepherd's Corner and may be utilized, transferred, or sold at their discretion.

I understand that my signature below indicates that I have read and understood the above statements and that I have received a copy of the Volunteer Information Sheet.

Volunteer's Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

SC staff initials \_\_\_\_\_



# Shepherd's Corner

Ecology Center  
Dominican Sisters of Peace

## Volunteer Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you age 13 or older? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

In case of emergency contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Group affiliation (if any): \_\_\_\_\_ How did you hear about us? \_\_\_\_\_

**Availability:** Check the days and times you are available and willing to volunteer

Volunteer Times

	Morning	Afternoon
Tuesday	_____	_____
Wednesday	_____	_____
Thursday	_____	_____
Friday	_____	_____
Saturday	_____	_____

Volunteers Times for Animal Chores (age 18 or older)

	Morning	Evening
Sunday	_____	_____
Monday	_____	_____
Tuesday	_____	_____
Wednesday	_____	_____
Thursday	_____	_____
Friday	_____	_____
Saturday	_____	_____

Do you prefer to volunteer on: a regular basis \_\_\_\_\_ special projects only \_\_\_\_\_ Weekly \_\_\_\_\_

Monthly \_\_\_\_\_ Quarterly \_\_\_\_\_ Alone \_\_\_\_\_ with Others \_\_\_\_\_

**What type of volunteer work interests you at Shepherd's Corner?** (e.g.: gardening, animal care, general labor). **What skills would like to share?**

---



---



---



---



---

**Do you have any physical/medical/other limitations that you would like us to be aware of? Do you have any allergies that would be helpful for us to know? (e.g. bees, poison ivy)**

---

---

**Other comments/suggestions:**

---

---

**Are you willing to have a background check?**

**yes**     **no**

**Contract:**

Shepherd's Corner is non-profit organization providing volunteer opportunities. An individual's decision to volunteer or participate in any activity or event is entirely voluntary. Volunteers assume all risks inherent in or associated with his, her or their participation in the activity or event. Volunteers also take responsibility for their own level of fitness. (If under 18, a parent / guardian must sign)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Guardian signature (if under 18): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Shepherd's Corner**

987 N. Waggoner Rd.

Blacklick, Ohio 43004

Phone: (614) 866-4302

Fax: (614) 866-4331

[www.shepherds corner.org](http://www.shepherds corner.org)

Email: [shepherds corner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shepherds corner@sbcglobal.net)