



## Volunteer Opportunities at Stone Barns Center

*Volunteer opportunities at Stone Barns Center vary throughout the year, and the opportunities listed below may not be available at all times. For up-to-date listings of available opportunities, please visit the "Volunteer" page at [www.stonebarnscenter.org](http://www.stonebarnscenter.org).*

### **Administrative**

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Join the administrative team at Stone Barns by providing support on tasks such as data entry, answering phone calls, assembling mailers, and preparing materials for special events or visiting groups. Computer literacy is strongly preferred.

*Shifts: Monday – Friday between 9am – 5pm (hours are flexible)*

### **Agriculture/Gardening**

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#### **Greenhouse**

Volunteers in our ½ acre greenhouse will participate in intensive vegetable production with a heavy focus on greens. Tasks include bed cleaning, weeding, harvesting and bed preparation. Also between the months of June and November, volunteers will take part in processing produce for market sales. This opportunity is for people who can bend and squat comfortably.

*Shifts: Tuesday – Saturday, between 9am – 4pm (hours are flexible)*

#### **Propagation**

We are seeking volunteer support in our propagation room starting in March, picking up extensively in April and May, and ending in June. This is fairly meticulous work done on tables with participants standing or sitting on high stools. Volunteers will be making soil blocks, seeding, and transplanting young plants.

*Shifts: Tuesday – Friday, April – June, between 9am – 4pm (hours are flexible)*

#### **Terrace Garden**

We are looking for volunteers with an interest in cut flower, edible flower and herb production. Volunteer tasks will be determined by season. Spring activities will include heavier manual labor such as garden cleaning, digging, bed preparation, and transplanting both seedlings and larger more established plants. Volunteers will create signage and labels for educational purposes and market stock. Tasks in June through September will include plenty of weeding, harvesting and processing.

*Shifts: Sunday – Friday, April – October, between 9am – 4pm (hours are flexible)*

#### **Vegetable Field**

Participating as a Vegetable Field Volunteer is a dynamic way to experience sustainable farming practices and work in a natural outdoor environment. Volunteers will be asked to work alongside Stone Barns Farm Staff to assist and learn the intricacies of our farming techniques. As the season progresses, a diversity of tasks include field preparation, transplanting, cultivation, harvesting and maintaining a 6-acre production area. Regular

participation will develop an awareness of seasonal changes and the practices that enable a small farm to function. The work is active and continues during most weather conditions.

*Shifts: Wednesday – Saturday, between 8am – 5pm (hours are flexible)*

### **Gardening and Landscaping**

The Dooryard Garden is a mixed perennial and vegetable garden that demonstrates various principles of sustainable farming practices and ideas for the home gardener. Volunteers work with the garden manager to maintain the garden, plant and harvest crops, and interpret the garden for visitors. The goal of the edible landscape project is to produce food and medicine for human consumption within a system that recycles nutrients, sustains biological diversity, requires minimal inputs, and looks beautiful. As a volunteer, you will be working with the garden manager to accomplish this goal. This is physical work that involves moderate bending, pulling and lifting.

*Shifts: Monday – Friday, occasional weekends (hours are flexible)*

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## **Compost**

### **Packaging Compost**

Work with our staff in early to late spring, packaging and affixing labels to bags of compost. This will involve some lifting; volunteers must be able to lift 50 pounds.

*Shifts: The schedule for this activity can be flexible.*

### **Shredding Cardboard**

Help shred cardboard as part of the “cradle-to-grave” recycling circle practiced at Stone Barns.

*Shifts: Mondays and Tuesdays from approximately 8am – 12pm, depending on volume.*

### **Splitting Firewood**

Assist our staff with splitting and stacking firewood.

*Shifts: The schedule for this activity can be flexible.*

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## **Farm Store**

Volunteers assist in receiving new merchandise, matching counts to shipping documents, inspecting for damages, labeling and folding merchandise, general house-keeping duties such as tidying merchandise on display, watering plants, and assisting shoppers. Volunteers may assist in the bi-annual inventory.

*Shifts: Wednesday – Sunday (Saturdays and Sundays are preferable), 3 – 4 hour shifts*

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## **Livestock**

The pasture-based, multi-species livestock program at Stone Barns seeks volunteers who will dedicate themselves to working side-by-side with livestock farmers to create and maintain healthy environments for the stewardship of the Center’s animals. Some of the work involves direct contact with the animals, (swine, sheep, meat and egg laying chickens, geese, turkeys and bees) although most of the day is spent moving fences, waterers and shelters; cleaning equipment; processing eggs; and tending pastures and woodlands. These and many other details are the backbone of a management system that strives to let the animals express instinctual behaviors and develop resilient immune systems.

Volunteers should be able to lift a minimum of 50 pounds, work safely under all weather conditions, and take direction well. After a period of training, volunteers may be expected to work independently.

*Shifts: Sunday – Saturday, 8am – 5pm*

## **School Programs**

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Assist Stone Barns staff in working with school groups (K–12) that visit the farm. Tasks include leading in-depth farm tours and chores such as egg-collecting, greenhouse bed cleaning, and assisting with classroom activities. Training and study materials will be provided.

*Shifts: Monday – Fridays during school hours (1 – 3 hour shifts), September – June*

## **Public Programs**

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The Public Programs department at Stone Barns works to offer engaging seasonal workshops, classes, and tours that teach the public about our farm and showcase the farm-to-table connection. Volunteers join us year-round in leading tours of the farm, assisting with cooking classes for families, and running hands-on farm activities for kids. Training and study materials will be provided.

*Shifts: Saturdays and Sundays, 1 – 2 hour shifts*

## **Visitor Services**

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Serve as the first line of information for new visitors to Stone Barns. Volunteers must be willing to speak enthusiastically and accurately about the mission and activities of the Center. Tasks include welcoming visitors, providing directions, answering questions, and answering the main phone line.

*Shifts: Wednesday – Sunday, 3 – 4 hour shifts*