

# COMMUNITY SERVICES UNLIMITED, INC.

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## **Group Visits to the EXPO Farm**

CSU's EXPO Farm is a multi-generational space that is open to the public for volunteer participation twice weekly and that hosts free community gardening and nutrition classes monthly, in addition to other activities and events.

CSU receives no direct funding to support volunteer days and visits to our urban farm spaces by groups, however we receive *numerous* requests for them. We value the work of volunteers and it has helped us to create and maintain the farm, however, using volunteer time effectively takes up staff time and our resources. We therefore request that visiting entities make a donation to help cover our costs and to ensure that the experience is a great one for all involved. This helps to ensure that our already hardworking staff team is not overstretched to beyond capacity.

### **For mom and pop small businesses, community and student groups:**

- Donation of \$75 per hour for up to 25 adults, or \$3 per person per hour/which ever is greater. Fee includes: An overview of CSU work and history; orientation to the EXPO farm; training and supervision to carryout gardening activities and use garden tools safely as appropriate; and water and a fresh fruit snack.
- Groups of youth under age 17 require a CSU Staff to child/youth ratio of 1 to 8. An additional \$25 per hour will be charged for each additional CSU staff member required to accommodate children.
- If possible, donation of whatever amount is possible to assist with the cost of items to be used as part of the volunteer day and for the general maintenance of the farm.

### **For corporate groups:**

- Donation of \$150 per hour for up to 25 adults, or \$6 per person per hour/which ever is greater. Fee includes: An overview of CSU work and history; orientation to the EXPO Farm; training and supervision to carryout gardening activities and use garden tools safely as appropriate; and water and a fresh fruit snack.
- Groups of youth under age 17 require a CSU Staff to child/youth ratio of 1 to 8. An additional \$25 per hour will be charged for each additional CSU staff member required to accommodate children.
- Donation of \$350 for items to be used as part of the volunteer day for every 25 volunteers, for the volunteer day and for the general maintenance of the farm.

## **Please Note:**

The EXPO Farm can get very hot, even when it is generally cooler weather, please dress in light layered clothes that are appropriate for farm work. Bring sun block and a hat. Please wear closed shoes, no flip flops or sandals!

This space is a working farm, folks will be required to follow guidelines that will be explained during the opening orientation circle, as such we ask that all parties in a group arrive together (unless other arrangements have been made with us before hand).

As per above, we make specific arrangements for additional staff for groups with children under 17, however, we still expect youth to function as part of their group, to have adults in the group they will work alongside and who will ensure that they follow expected guidelines such as no running, playing with tools, climbing trees or furniture etc.

Volunteer time at the EXPO Mini-Farm may include all manner of farming related activities; everything from harvesting plants and seeds, moving compost and mulch, digging up weeds and grasses, cutting back overgrown plants, to clearing and bagging up trash. Exactly what you do, depends on the needs of the farm at the time you volunteer. We cannot guarantee specific activities Farming tools and gloves are available at the farm.

Visiting groups tend to have team leader/s or organizers with them. These individuals are expected to work alongside everyone else as we find this the most conducive to a good experience at the farm.

Do not take photos or video unless you have a prior agreement with us, and in this case we will ask for any taken to be shared with us.

Please note there is no restroom at the farm itself, there are restrooms at the senior center located next door and if that is closed, at the swim stadium a little further along Bill Robertson Lane.

There is paid parking across the street from the farm, and some street parking around the farm, CSU is not responsible for providing parking. We encourage the use of public transport and car pooling.

CSU sells produce and some of our value-added items at the farm along with some seedlings and plants at certain times of the year; these will be available for sale.

CSU sites are plastic and “junk food” free zones. Volunteers are asked to bring a water bottle (a simple mason jar works well), for re-filling, the water at the farm is potable. Please do not bring plastic water bottle to the farm!

Groups interested in additional team building and/or educational activities can arrange in advance to have these integrated into their visit for an additional fee. CSU staff will work with visiting groups to personalize activities to meet their specific needs and interests.

Donations must be received by CSU at least 2 weeks in advance of the volunteer day. Payments can be made via check or credit card. CSU can provide a W-9 and/or invoice to facilitate donations upon request.

If you are interested in bringing out a group to the farm, please send an email to [csu@csuinc.org](mailto:csu@csuinc.org) with the estimated numbers in your group and their ages, your proposed dates for the visit, any specific needs you have, or any questions not answered in this document, and the name and information of the contact person.

Thankyou,

The CSU Team!