

Woof Information

What is being offered to successful applicants?

Accommodation and food in exchange for help. This is often called voluntary Woofing.

This sounds simple, why is such a long document necessary?

I have tried to keep the document as simple as possible unfortunately life is complicated and without clarity, unnecessary suffering is created; this document aims to prevent that.

You say food is provided, what exactly does that mean?

We will provide you with three meals a day: breakfast (8 AM), lunch (1 PM) and dinner (7 PM) for each day that you help out on the farm. I care about my food, this means striving to make each meal fresh, yummy, nutritious and delicious. My goal is to cook food grown onsite or from local suppliers as much as possible.

Will I be involved in food preparation?

Yes, everyone gets involved in some part of the preparation of food, either the cooking, setting the table for meals or the cleanup.

How long can I stay?

When you first arrive you will be on a trial period for two weeks. After the trial period, you may apply to stay for anywhere from one week to six months. We will let you know quickly the outcome of your application within a week of completing your trial.

What will I learn?

It depends on what you already know. We will show you our organic farming methods, land care and general ecological practices while participating in the daily activities. I am still learning so it is possible you will also teach me about such practices.

If you are open to it I will share my spiritual knowledge and/or practices and will likely be keen to learn yours.

Do I need any existing training?

No existing training and/or qualifications are required.

What are the requirements to participate?

You must be in good health and fit because the help we need may involve lifting and hard manual labour.

How much help is expected?

For every night spent onsite you are asked to help for four hours per day. Help starts at 8:30 AM and ends at 12:30 PM.

Any help is provided entirely voluntarily and of your own free will. You cannot help out so that someone else can stay at the farm. Work done on Saturdays is lighter and does not generally involve power tools. Sunday is a day of rest unless help is needed

What happens if I am sick or otherwise unable to help?

We understand that things happen occasionally. If you are unwell or otherwise unable to help out, the hours not worked will be substituted later in the day or over the weekend.

What happens if it rains?

If it is raining you may help us inside or you may choose to take the day off and help another day.

Is this a job or business partnership?

No. I will not be paying you for the help provided and no employment or partnership relationship exists nor do you substitute for paid work. Any work you perform is done so without any legal or contractual obligation to do so and you will not receive any financial remuneration.

What are the typical sorts of activities might I get to be involved with?

Gardening seeding, planting, weeding, mulching, pruning, harvesting.

Animals existing: chickens, coming soon: geese and cows.

Farming mowing, brush cutting, clearing, composting.

Life skills cooking, cleaning, shared enjoyment.

Construction building, fencing, painting, design.

Events planning, support, ticketing and promotion.

I am interested in helping with a particular thing, can I do it?

Please tell me about this and where possible I will work to accommodate you.

What is expected of me?

I do expect you to take responsibility for your actions and when helping out you do so with team spirit, enthusiasm, and to the highest quality and in the most creative way you can.

Does my safety matter to you?

Yes, your safety is really important to me. I expect you to take responsibility for your personal safety and I will ensure occupational health and safety requirements are followed by you and others around you. Please abstain from any action or omission which could endanger you or others.

Do you have insurance?

No, you are entirely responsible to have life and health insurance, as well as insurance against accidents and liability against others.

Am I going to be treated with respect?

Yes. I believe in open and respectful communication at all times. I strive to be 100% honest at all times about how I feel and what I am thinking, and I encourage you to do likewise. I have found that only through good communication can we remain happy and clear.

Do you have guidelines or rules?

Yes, please read our books: “Being New Here”, “Living with others” and “Practical Matters”.

I also ask that you comply with any instructions given as there is generally a good reason for it. If you don't agree with or understand something please raise it with me.

What happens if things change for me during my stay?

To ensure the smooth operation of our volunteer program please follow any plans made with me unless and until you inform me of any changes.

Can I leave early?

Yes, if you wish to leave you can do so after giving me a reasonable notice period to arrange alternative volunteers. Typically a reasonable notice is one week but it will depend on how involved you are in what is happening at the moment.

Can I be required to leave?

Yes, if it is found that you are behaving in a manner that means living and/or working with you is unpleasant then I will provide you with clear feedback on what needs to change. If this behaviour has not changed within a week you will need to leave, with all your possessions, within twenty-four hours. If you do not have your own transport we will assist you with transport to Nimbin town centre. Antisocial behaviour, breaking the law and/or a core rule, will result in you being required to leave immediately without notice.

How is my trial period different from the rest of my stay?

During the trial period, we will be assessing your suitability to stay for longer. I encourage you will be assessing your own suitability during the trial. If we get the impression you don't fit with what we want I will ask you to leave at the end of the trial. If it is obvious you don't belong I may end your trial early. After the trial ends we have an agreement between us that you will stay for the agreed period on the condition that you will keep to our rules.

I hear this is a drug and alcohol-free property. What does that mean?

It means we do not allow smoking, alcohol and non-prescription drugs to be brought on the site. It also means that if you are intoxicated you must not come to the site. Further, you must not work on the farm or use any farm equipment or machinery within twelve hours of smoking, or consuming any drugs and/or alcohol. These rules extend to any guests you bring on-site.

What tools can I use while helping out?

You will have access to any of our tools for use on-site. To use a power tool you must be issued a ‘Certificate of Competency’ for that particular power tool.

What should I expect on arrival?

You will be asked to sign that you have read, understood and agreed to the contents of this document. Then someone will take a photo of your ID and get you to complete a form. Later we will provide you with an induction.