

Smiling Hill Farm Barnyard Inc.

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with Smiling Hill Farm. We are excited to connect with individuals who are as dedicated and passionate about farm animals as we are. Our mission is to provide an educational facility for children and adults about domestic farm animals. We are constantly searching for volunteers who believe in and support our mission!

Volunteer Requirements:

- Children must be at least 11 years old if volunteering with a parent/guardian.
- 18+ year olds can volunteer independently.
- Must have a desire to work with animals and the public.
- Some tasks may require employee assistance; some may be independent.
 - o Please let staff know if you have a preference.
- Limitations should be discussed prior to volunteering (physical, etc.)

In consideration of Smiling Hill Farm accepting me as a volunteer I agree to hold Smiling Hill Farm and its employees harmless and blameless for any accident or injury which I might sustain while being involved in domestic and livestock animal activities even if such injury is caused by or contributed to by the negligence of Smiling Hill Farm or any of its employees. I certify that statements made in this application are true and have been given voluntarily. I also understand that I will not be paid for my services as a volunteer. Furthermore I recognize the fact that there is an inherent risk while working with animals, including but not limited to the following; (1) the behaviors of domestic and livestock animals including, running, kicking, biting, or stepping on that may result in injury, harm or death to persons near them; (2) the inability to predict domestic or livestock animals reaction to sudden movements, sounds or other animals. I assume the risks of participation in these activities.

Contact Information:

Thank you again for your interest in volunteering with Smiling Hill Farm

Applications can be mailed to:

Smiling Hill Farm

Attn: Hillary Knight

781 County Road

Westbrook, ME 04092

Emailed to: barnyard@smilinghill.com

Or dropped off at the farm.

Smiling Hill Farm History & Philosophy

The Knight family of Smiling Hill Farm has been farming in Maine since the 1600's. Smiling Hill Farm is a working farm of black & white registered Holstein dairy cows producing fresh natural milk in the quality tradition of Maine. The 500 acre farm includes rolling hayfields and deep forests traversed with trails as old as the farm itself. The centuries old tasks of animal husbandry are performed daily with milking, haying, feeding and caring of livestock on this historic farm. Smiling Hill Farm is dedicated to teaching each new generation the important role that animals and agriculture have in our lives.

The Knight Family consisted of Roger and Sally Knight, their six children, and ten grandchildren. Roger Knight - the founder of the farm passed away in May of 2015. The rest of the Knight family continues to fulfill his dream of educating the younger generations about animals and agriculture. Most of the Knight children were employed on the farm. David Knight milked the cows and managed the dairy farm itself. When he retired, Hillary took over. Marsha Knight & Michael Knight are employed by Hillside Lumber Company. Warren Knight is the former President of the farm.. Hillary Knight, a grand-child, is the President, Herdsperson, and Barnyard Manager.

Many of the animals that come to Smiling Hill farm are either rescued, retired, or unwanted. Our goal is to provide a safe and caring home for these animals despite the tragedies they have endured. While we try our best to domesticate our animals and make them friendly, it is inevitable that animals bite, kick, scratch, and/or claw. Volunteers and paid staff will be trained on how to approach animals and to care for them in the best way possible. It is our mission to provide the best care and to give the animals the best life which they deserve.

What We Look for in our Volunteers/Interns

- Responsibility/Reliability
 - The animals, staff and other volunteers rely on you being here at certain times of the day. It is inevitable that emergencies arise, and we need to know with enough time to make other arrangements. If you are a “no-show” the animals don’t get the care they deserve.
- Sensitivity/Respect
 - It is important to remember that animals are different than humans, and need to be handled differently, spoken to in quiet voices, and treated with kindness.
 - At no point is it okay to yell at, strike at or harass an animal on the property.
 - Loud voices and clapping may be used to direct animals/create a safe space/warning for other employees/caretakers/guests.
- Not Squeamish
 - You will be dealing with lots of poop on a daily basis. If poop bothers you, this may not be the right fit. Animal emergencies do occur, and blood comes with it. There may even be a chance to witness the miracle of birth, provided you don’t pass out.
- Open Communication
 - If you have any questions or concerns that you don’t feel comfortable talking to a paid employee about, seek the Barnyard Manager or Shift Leader on duty. All will be happy to assist.
- Good listeners
 - There are many chores that need to be done around the farm. It is important to do them correctly and not mix them up. It is important to give the cow her grain, and the ram his grain. If feeds are mixed up, serious health issues could arise.
 - Volunteers will be working alongside employees during feed times. Once shift leaders determine the volunteer is able to be solo, all feeding and medicating tasks will be done with supervision.
- Being Observant
 - It is important to be aware of your surroundings, and keep tabs on the animals and their enclosures. If the gate wasn’t locked when you went in, make note of it. If you are doing afternoon feeding and the animal hasn’t eaten their breakfast, also make note of it. The more that gets noticed, the more problems are prevented.
- Flexibility
 - Our jobs around the farm vary and at times we have to help wherever needed. Being flexible helps ease the load off everyone. You will help us by being willing to do whatever needs to be done, and in turn, you will learn more skills. Broken fence – grab a hammer. Birthing goat – grab a towel. Life on a farm is always unexpected & brings new challenges every day.

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with Smiling Hill Farm!

Animals We Have at Smiling Hill Farm

- Cows – if interested in working with them, you will always have a second person who has cow experience with you.
- Sheep
- Goats
- Birds
 - o Chickens
 - o Ducks
 - o Geese
 - o Quail
 - o Doves
 - o Turkeys
 - o Guinea Fowl
 - o Peafowl (male – peacock, female – peahen)
- Pot-Belly Pigs
- Equines
 - o Miniature Horses
 - o Miniature Donkeys
- Emus
- Deer
- Alpacas
- Small Animals
 - o Ferrets
 - o Chinchillas
 - o Rabbits
 - o Guinea Pigs
 - o Mice/Rats
 - o Hedgehog
 - o Tortoise
 - o Turtles
 - o Degus (small animal similar to guinea pig)

Smiling Hill Farm Daily Routine

The Smiling Hill Farm Barnyard is open May- October, but most of the animals reside at the farm year round. Our Volunteer season is run from April-November. During the off season Volunteers are needed for fostering small animals. We also welcome back long term volunteers for extra projects or events during the off season.

The daily routine, while some aspects change, consists of cleaning, feeding, watering, and interacting with the public.

Mornings: All animals are to be fed and watered by 11am. Certain pens/enclosures need to be cleaned prior to opening. Some water dishes are filled by 5 gallon buckets, some by hose and some include small animal (under 1 gallon) containers.

Afternoons: Afternoon feeding begins at 3:00 PM. All animals must be fed and “tucked in” by 5:15 PM.

All day: There are many jobs to be done, from raking the petting areas to cleaning bunny cages to walking the ponies. There is always something that needs to be done! If you ever feel like you have nothing to do, ask a staff member - we have a long ‘to-do’ list! It is also important that you let a staff member know if you feel overwhelmed or lost. If you ever have a doubt or are unsure, ask; there are no stupid questions.

Typical Day:

9:15-11:00 Feeding and watering

11:00-3:30 Cleaning exhibits; projects, etc.

12:00-1:00 Lunches

3:30-5:15 Afternoon Feeding and watering

Volunteer Agreement

This agreement is intended to indicate the seriousness of our volunteer program. It is intended to relay our deepest appreciation for your services, and to make this a safe and rewarding experience.

Smiling Hill Farm agrees:

- To treat each volunteer as an equal member of the farm staff
- To provide necessary training and tools for the volunteer to perform his/her required duties
- To maintain open communication with regards to policy and changes

The Volunteer agrees:

- To be on time for all scheduled events
- To adhere to all Smiling Hill Farm policies & procedures, and be receptive to any changes
- To respect the farm's right to dismiss a volunteer
- To carry out my duties safely and to the best of my ability and seek guidance when in doubt
- To respect the paid staff and strive to maintain a smooth working relationship
- To notify Barnyard Manager if I intend to discontinue my volunteering
- To wear proper clothing and boots for intended chores
- To abide by the rules and regulations as stated in the Volunteer Manual

The Volunteer understands:

- That each volunteer is a representative of the farm
- It is important to treat each customer with respect, courtesy, and understanding.

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the above terms and conditions of the Volunteer Agreement and that I will comply with those stated.

I acknowledge that I have received a copy of Smiling Hill Farm's Volunteer Manual and understand its contents.

Volunteer Signature: _____ Date: _____

Smiling Hill Farm Volunteer Waiver

I, _____, the undersigned do declare that I am aware:

- That animals can be unpredictable in response to human actions
- Animals can bite, scratch, claw, and/or kick
- That I volunteer at my own risk

I therefore release and waive my right to claims against any agents, employees, directors, officers of Smiling Hill Farm, and all liability insurance carriers now and in the future for any known/unknown damages to myself or my property, arising from activities relating to my volunteer duties and exposure to farm animals.

Volunteer Signature: _____ Date: _____

PARENTS OF APPLICANTS UNDER 18, PLEASE COMPELTE & SIGN:

Parent Name(s):

Primary Phone #:

Alternate Phone #:

If I, _____ (parent/guardian of volunteer), cannot be reached in the event of an emergency, I hereby authorize Smiling Hill Farm to hospitalize and secure any necessary medical treatment for my child, except the following:

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Smiling Hill Farm

Volunteer Application Form 2026

Name: _____ Female Male

Preferred pronoun: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Birth Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Company/School: _____ Grade Level: _____

Do you have reliable transportation? Yes No

Health Information: Do you have any allergies, head, neck, back or joint issues that could affect your volunteering? _____

Emergency Contact

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Why are you interested in volunteering with Smiling Hill Farm?

Does the applicant have any limitations on the type of work the applicant is able or willing to do:

Does the applicant have any particular skills that may help our team?

What would the volunteer expect to gain from this experience?

Please describe, if any, previous animal experience:

Have you ever volunteered with us before? Yes No

If yes, give date _____

Do any of your friends or relatives volunteer or work here? Yes No

Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor or a felony? Yes No

Are there any criminal charges being held against you? Yes No

Are you applying to complete a court-ordered community Yes No

Service requirement? Yes No

Availability (Please check all that apply)

	Morning 9:00-12:00	12:00-2:30	2:30-5:30
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			
Saturday			
Sunday			

How many hours per week would you like to volunteer: _____?

References

Name _____ Phone: _____

Name _____ Phone: _____

Name _____ Phone: _____

Interests/Hobbies: _____

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Signature

Date

Parent or Legal Guardian if Under 18

Date