

Terms & Conditions: Farmstay Program

A. General Terms & Conditions

1. 'Farmstay' is a program of short-term, unpaid volunteering at non-commercial farms in English or French Canada.
2. All Farmstay placements are unpaid. Program participants, known as "volunteers", should not ask their host companies for remuneration before, during, or after their placements.
3. All Farmstay placements are done at small, non-commercial farms. Placements are not available at large, commercial, or industrial farms or ranches.
4. Due to Canadian government rules, farmstays cannot be longer than 4 weeks. Volunteers cannot extend or do a second farmstay while on the same Immigration Canada visitor's visa or permit.
5. All travel expenses to or from Canada are the responsibility of the participant, and are not provided by the agency, school, or host organization.
6. One way bus travel from Vancouver, Toronto, Calgary or Montreal to the farmstay (if in the same province) is provided by Global Village's farmstay partner agency, Experience Education (EE).
7. Placements are available in rural areas of the BC Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island (including the Gulf Islands), the BC Interior and Rockies, Alberta, rural Ontario, and the St Lawrence Valley. St Lawrence Valley placements are French-only, while all other destinations are English-only.
8. All placements include on-site accommodation and meals at no additional charge.
9. Volunteers typically assist on the farm between 15 and 25 hours per week.
10. Volunteers must have private health insurance to cover their entire stay in Canada.
11. Volunteers agree to adhere to all terms of EE's Farmstay health and safety policy.
12. Volunteers consent to being contacted by EE via email and Skype.

B. Placement Selection

1. Volunteers must choose both a farmstay destination and a farm type.
2. If a volunteer requests to change their placement choices after having signed and completed their Farmstay application, they will be assigned a new start date at least 4 weeks from the date the field changes were approved in writing by EE and a new application signed by the student.
3. If the volunteer does not have at least 4 weeks remaining to perform their Farmstay placement after their new start date is assigned, they will be removed from the program with no refund or reimbursement of any kind.
4. Volunteers may not change their Farmstay placement fields or destination after they have been matched with a farmstay host family.

5. Volunteers are not guaranteed a placement or interview in any specific farm.
6. EE can guarantee to find the best placement available however may not be able to meet all of a volunteer's preferences.
7. Volunteers requesting placements working with horses, must have extensive previous experience with horses. In some cases, EE may request proof of this.

C. Placement Process

1. After registration, Experience Education will contact the volunteer via email and Skype in order to arrange an initial meeting. During this meeting a farmstay volunteer profile will be created. In some cases, when requested by a farmstay, EE will work with the volunteer to create a Canadian-style resume.
2. Volunteers will typically receive notice of their farm match 2-4 weeks after their initial Skype meeting with EE. The match can come earlier or later in some cases, depending on availability.
3. As soon as a farmstay match is made, the placement search will stop. Volunteers will not be given multiple, simultaneous placements to choose from.
4. A volunteer may decline their farm match for any reason except:
 - a. Race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, or sexual orientation of the farmstay family
 - b. Size or notoriety of farm
 - c. Size of accommodation or amenities
5. Volunteers who decline more than 2 farmstay matches will be removed from the program with no refund or reimbursement of any kind.
6. In many cases, farmstay families may request a meeting with the volunteer via Skype or phone before confirming the match. Participation in these meetings is a mandatory component of the program, and non-attendance at a meeting for any reason, will be considered a declined match.
7. Volunteers may request a pre-match Skype or phone interview with their prospective farmstay match.

D. During the Farmstay Placement

1. Volunteers must complete regular progress reports during their Farmstay placement.
2. Report requests will be sent to the participant each week during their placement.
3. All reports must be completed within 48 hours of the report request being sent
4. Participants who do not complete reports, may not access the Conflict Resolution Policy.
5. EE cannot guarantee specific hours or quantities of farm work as unforeseen circumstances may arise such as bad weather conditions.

E. Accommodation

1. Accommodation, meals, and some (but not all) basic toiletries are included on the farm at no extra charge.
2. Accommodation may be private, or may be shared. Any shared rooms will be single-sex rooms.
3. The volunteer may have a private bathroom or may have to share the bathroom with the host family (if so, please be aware of how long you are taking in the bathroom).
4. The volunteer will be provided with 3 meals per day. The volunteer must notify Experience Education in writing before the placement process begins if they have any dietary restrictions.
5. Volunteers are often treated as a family member and therefore may be responsible for helping out on with daily chores e.g. keeping your own room tidy, doing dishes etc., volunteers may also be expected to participate in family activities.
6. The volunteer is to abide by family house rules and conduct himself/herself in a proper fashion at all times.

F. Ending the Farmstay Placement Early

1. If a volunteer ends their Volunteer placement early, they may not receive a refund or reimbursement of any kind.
2. Volunteers cannot contact a Farmstay host directly to discuss ending their placement early.
3. Participants must contact EE at least 1 week in advance or any proposed early finish to their Farmstay placement.

G. Conflict Resolution Policy

1. In case of any conflicts at the farm, volunteers must follow the conflict resolution policy found at www.experienceeducation.ca/conflict-resolution/

H. Re-Placement

1. If, before the first two week's of placement is completed, a Farmstay host ends a placement for a reason other than what would be considered equivalent to 'just cause' under BC employment standards rules, EE will attempt to obtain a new placement for the volunteer. The volunteer will not receive any other form of refund or reimbursement. A replacement is dependent on availability, and is not guaranteed.
2. If a new placement is obtained, EE will provide the volunteer with one-way bus transportation to the new placement.

I. Withdrawing from Program

1. If a volunteer wishes to withdraw from the Farmstay program, they may do so at any time.
2. If the volunteer withdraws before they are matched to a Farmstay, they will receive a refund of all program fees, less a \$300 administration fee.
3. If a volunteer withdraws after they are matched to a Farmstay, they will not receive a refund or reimbursement of any kind.

J. Waiver

1. As a condition of enrolment in the Farmstay program, volunteers agree not to hold EE, the school, or the farmstay host liable for any actions or inactions during the placement process, or during the placement itself, including during travel time to or from the host.
2. The volunteer promises to respect the property of the farmstay host and accepts responsibility for any property damage they cause.
3. The volunteer understands that they must follow all farmstay host rules, written and unwritten.
4. The volunteer agrees to respect all additional rules, duties and obligations described in the Farmstay Placement Agreement.
5. The volunteer agrees to provide EE and the farmstay host with proof of health insurance for the duration of their Farmstay placement. Failure to provide this document will lead to the end of the volunteer's participation in the program, with no refund or reimbursement of any kind.

Volunteer Name (Please Print)

Volunteer Signature

Date
