



Volunteering Policy

While there is no work requirement at the Ypsi Food Coop, you can share much more fully in the community and energies of the coop through volunteering. Volunteers were traditionally the backbone and foundation of the coop, handling everything to do with running the store from cheese cutting, purchasing produce at Eastern Market in Detroit, and cashiering. Committees of volunteers created our by-laws and policies, set up procedures of how our business would look and did everything possible to make our store run. Over the years, volunteerism has waned, and our staff positions have been filled by paid staff as we have become a larger business. Today our staff is made up of part-time and full-time employees who are paid at least minimum wage. The coop pays required taxes for unemployment, worker's comp and social security. Currently we have about 27 employees, working about 27,500 hours a year, or 525 per week.

Volunteers are still a vital contribution to the smooth operation of our coop though. Approximately 100 members volunteer over the course of the year. While we allow walk-in volunteers who find that they have time to contribute, the ability to do so is dependent on work needing to be done. We also encourage regular volunteering and we have a variety of opportunities for doing so.

Most of the volunteer positions are meant to augment our staff with special skills and talents. YFC pays required taxes for unemployment, worker's comp and social security for our staff.

The positions fluctuate and are posted in our newsletter, on our website, and in-store postings. They may include:

- ❖ Running for the Board of Directors
- ❖ Fund raising
- ❖ Social events including helping with the Annual General Membership Meeting
- ❖ Outreach in the community especially at special events such as the Heritage Festival
- ❖ Maintenance on equipment
- ❖ Supporting our expansion
- ❖ Web site development, newsletter layout and writing newsletter articles
- ❖ Working on special projects
- ❖ Gardening
- ❖ Assisting with inventory
- ❖ Cleaning

Volunteers receive a 12 % discount for 1 week for each 2 hours worked. A volunteer working a lesser amount would receive their discount once they have accrued 2 hours.

In addition, you get the satisfaction of working with others in our community on projects of common interest and foster a spirit of co-operation among all.

Discounts do not apply to sale items, non-discountable items such as dairy, beer and wine, or special orders.

Discounts begin the Monday after the volunteer submits their timesheet with hours worked. Time worked should be recorded on the volunteer work tracking binder or on a volunteer sheet provided by the Co-op. Hours may be accumulated for work, so if you work more than 2 hours in a week the discount can be carried forward.

If the volunteer goes on vacation or is out of town for an entire week or more, for which a discount would be earned, they may extend their discount for the number of weeks they were absent.

The discount and time commitment are per person.

We would appreciate knowing ahead of time when members can volunteer, either with a call ahead, or a prescheduled position. We would also appreciate knowing if you will be unavailable for a time scheduled.