



POP Orchard Partner Orientation

Orchard Partners are individuals that are usually staff, sometimes volunteers, who work directly for the Orchard Partner group or organization and are the main stewards of the orchard. This document details the roles of the Orchard Partner and POP, seasonal expectations, and tools for your empowerment as orchard stewards.

Orchard Partners

POP plants and supports orchards in collaboration with a diverse range of Orchard Partners, community-based groups and organizations throughout Philadelphia that manage and maintain their orchard spaces.

Expected Role of Orchard Partners:

1. Ongoing, regular orchard maintenance, including weeding, watering as needed, pest and disease monitoring and management, and other general upkeep.
2. Harvest and distribution of orchard produce within the community in a manner that expands access to fresh foods.
3. Report regularly to POP on the status, challenges, needs, and successes of the orchard and participate in POP's annual orchard partner survey.
4. As needed, attend POP educational opportunities on orchard care and maintenance.
5. Maintain an active roster of volunteers for orchard events.
6. In shared work days and events, collaborate with POP on creating a positive experience for volunteers on scheduled work days, including helping supervise activities, providing snacks and beverages, planning any additional activities.
7. Explain and promote the orchard space to the surrounding community.
8. Include POP on any relevant signage and publicity as appropriate.
9. Alert POP promptly about any important changes in staff, capacity, land access, or other significant developments that might affect ongoing stewardship of the orchard.

Expected Role of POP:

1. Help design/plan any new orchard plantings in collaboration with the Orchard Partner group.
2. Acquire and deliver the plants and other materials indicated in the orchard design.
3. Assist in organizing planting dates and supervising planting and installation of orchard materials.
4. Provide ongoing expertise regarding the care and maintenance of the orchard installation through on or off site consulting.
5. Provide opportunities for Orchard Partners and volunteers to receive training on best practices in the ecological care and maintenance of orchard plantings, including the POPCORE training course, POPHarvestEd workshops, and other educational opportunities.

6. Develop orchard educational materials to aid Orchard Partners in their efforts, including orchard and plant signage, POP TIPS on the PHOG email list and POP's blog; POP's seasonal orchard care guide, pruning guide, pest & disease identification guide, and weed identification guide; monthly orchard task list, harvest tracking sheet; and a variety of website resources including downloadable lesson plans and plant info sheets.
7. In most cases, POP aims to provide ongoing direct staff support to each partner site on a quarterly/seasonal basis; for purposes of providing training opportunities for volunteers, POP assists with monthly work days at a few designated sites.
8. As needed, POP can assist with recruitment of volunteers, or in some cases a Lead Orchard Volunteer, to provide additional ongoing assistance to Orchard Partners in care of their spaces.
9. If needed, POP can sometimes provide assistance with harvest and distribution of excess orchard produce through our POPHarvest gleaning program.
10. POP conducts an annual partner survey to gather data on the successes and challenges of our Orchard Partners and provides participating sites with a requested orchard tool or other item as a thank you for participation.

Lead Orchard Volunteers

Dedicated volunteers assigned to help support specific orchards on an ongoing basis. This group includes those recruited by POP or the Orchard Partner and trained to serve as knowledgeable orchard volunteers that can expand the impact of POP's limited staff by providing direct support to Orchard Partners. Expected Role of Lead Orchard Volunteers:

1. Provide direct support to Orchard Caretaker according to capacity. Support may include site visits, assistance with ongoing orchard work days, and volunteer recruitment and supervision.
2. Grow knowledge base of orchard care through ongoing experience supporting a specific orchard; through attendance of POP educational opportunities and resources; and via additional research with guidance of POP staff.
3. Serve to increase communication between Orchard Partners and POP staff through regular reporting of challenges, needs, and successes.
4. Where possible, participate via monthly work days or site visits with their assigned orchard.
5. Lead Orchard Volunteers may receive the following to support and encourage their efforts: discounted/free attendance of POP educational opportunities; free or discounted plants from POP's nursery, free POP educational materials and t-shirt.

Orchard Care Educational Resources

Orchard Partner stewards aren't expected to be an orchard expert from the start! Questions beyond the Orchard Partner's expertise should either be referred to POP staff or content on POP's website and printed materials (via searching the [blog](#) and [resource](#) pages)

Highly Suggested Trainings (video versions linked below):

- [POPCORE 1](#): Eco-Orchard Care and Pruning
 - [Orchard Pruning Video Playlist](#)
- [POPCORE 2](#): Eco-Orchard Pest and Disease Management
 - [Pest and Disease Management Video Playlist](#)
- [POPCORE 3](#): Eco-Orchard Harvest and Use
 - [POPHarvest Video Playlist](#)
- [POPCORE 4](#): Eco-Orchard Design and Establishment

Hands-on, in person versions of POPCORE workshops are offered at seasonally appropriate times of the year and promoted via the [PHOG email list](#).

For more hands-on guided experience:

1. Attend other POP Staff-led monthly work days offered at other sites
2. Join POP staff at multiple pruning sessions and other seasonal workdays

POP Orchard Care Resources:

- [PHOG Orchard Care Email List](#)
- [Monthly Orchard Care Task List](#)
- [Harvest Tracking Sheet](#)
- [Pruning Guide for Fruit Trees, Berries, and Vines](#)
- [Pest & Disease Monthly Action Plans](#)
- [Apple Pest and Disease Scouting Guide](#)
- [Peach Pest and Disease Scouting Guide](#)
- [Pear & Asian Pear Pest and Disease Scouting Guide](#)
- [Plum & Apricot Pest and Disease Scouting Guide](#)
- [Cherry Pest and Disease Scouting Guide](#)
- [Community Organizing Toolkit part 1](#)
- [Community Organizing Toolkit part 2](#)
- [Intro to Urban Eco-Orchards](#)