

# East Tennessee Gleaners Co-op Rules and Regulations

**Keep ETGC up to date.** Please let us know if the information supplied on your ETGC Membership Application, such as your address, phone numbers or ability to glean. Email ETGC at EastTennesseeGleanersCoop@gmail.com

**Bring your membership card.** Membership cards are required; supervisors do not know all the members. If the member can not attend they may send another family member in their place, this family member must have the member's membership card. Members may be allowed to pick up items for other members as arranged by those members, must have membership cards for both members.

**Come prepared and Bring your own equipment.** When gleaning, wear appropriate attire: You will come into contact with spiders, worms, and possibly stinging insects. There may be thorns, mud, or rough terrain. Wear long pants, closed-toe shoes with traction. Long-sleeved shirts and jackets are suggested but at your discretion. If children are welcome at a glean, please double-check that their attire is suitable as well. Bring gloves and clippers, knife, pickers or ladders if needed. Bring a water bottle and sunscreen. Take care of yourself and know your physical limitations. If you bring children, please make sure they STAY WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES.

**Vehicles in the fields.** Some fields are muddy or have expensive underground irrigation, gleaner vehicles may be designated to specific parking areas. These may not be some distance from the crops, plan ahead rolling carts may be needed

**Children at Gleans/Classes/Events.** Membership includes your entire household so your children are welcome to participate in events that do not have any specific age limitations. However children (under 18 years old) must be supervised by an adult who is entirely responsible for their behavior. Children not participating in the event should be left home. If a child is disrupting an event the adult responsible for the child may be asked to leave by the board member/instructor/field supervisor in charge of the event.

**Listen to the field supervisors.** The Field Supervisor of the glean is responsible for communicating the specifics of the glean, enforcing the boundaries in which we are told by the farmer/homeowner. They will enforce and maintain a positive gleaning situation for ALL. They will direct children back to their parents and make sure proper field etiquette is ALWAYS in place. This person is also in charge of getting you to sign into and out of the field as well as making sure you weigh all that you have picked and donate your 10% before leaving the field. Any questions or problems, please go to the field supervisor - NEVER to the farmer/landowner/host.

**Animals at Gleans/Classes/Events.** Pets/animals are not allowed at ETGC gleanings/classes/events as most of these events entail food products. ETGC will follow ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) rules as they pertain to service animals found at <https://beta.ada.gov/topics/service-animals/> as per these rules a service animal must be trained to perform a task directly related to a person's disability. A board member/instructor/field supervisor in charge of the event may ask if the service animal is required because of a disability and what work or task the animal has been trained to perform? Any member bringing any other pet/animal to any ETGC event may be asked to leave and may lead to removal of membership privileges.

**Weighing of all items gleaned.** A weighing station will be set up on all gleanings. All items gleaned must be weighed; this is how the farmer/landowner receives their tax write-off. Weight is also necessary to calculate each member's 10% donation. All gleaned items must be weighed before leaving the field, failure to do so may result in suspension or loss of membership.

## **Volunteer Hour Requirements for \$10 Volunteer Memberships**

**Ten hours of volunteer time is required** for all Volunteer Memberships to be completed within the calendar year. Whether you join in January or August, you will still be charged a \$10.00 membership fee, and you must still put in 10 hours of volunteer time before the end of the year to maintain Good Standing. Volunteer time will be through ETGC or pre-approved by ETGC. You can volunteer your time in various ways such as a field supervisor, teaching classes, helping with classes, making crafts or baked goods for craft/bake sales, working the sale, helping with membership drives, distributing donated items, making phone calls ... etc .... failure to complete 10 hours will cause loss of member's good standing status. Members who are not in "Good Standing" will not be eligible for a \$10 Volunteer Membership for the following year; they will only be eligible for the \$30 Non-Volunteer membership.

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**Treat the Farmers and his fields/plants/trees with respect.** We are their guests ... being asked to come into their fields is a blessing to us and a benefit to our community as well .... and we want to keep this going! Let's make the owners glad we are there. No cursing or food fights ... Lets treat this like a job for which you are being paid in produce. Also, please, PLEASE don't complain! The food and field conditions may not be perfect, these are fields that have already be picked for profit, the remaining food is considered seconds. Nobody wants to have guests who are whiny and ungrateful. There are other groups out there that the owner could have called, or could call next time.

**No show at registered Gleans/Classes/Events.** Many ETGC events require advanced registration due to limited space and may have a waiting list of members.. Members who register to attend an event must notify ETGC by email(EastTennesseeGleanersCoop@gmail.com) 24 hours prior to the event if they can not attend. A member who does not notify us/attend an event they registered for twice within a member year will not allowed to register for ETGC events for the remainder of the member year.

**Be clean and safe - Read the rules posted for the Glean or Class.** No Smoking or Alcoholic Beverages are ever allowed in the fields or on homeowners property! We do not want anyone leaving food wrappers or any garbage at a glean or class site. Drinks should be brought in non-glass containers. Use common sense: You are on owner's property at your own risk. Homeowners and Farmers are not liable for ANY injuries under the Good Samaritan Act. Please take every precaution to ensure SAFETY FIRST, not just to you, but for his workers and equipment as well. It is never appropriate to bring dogs or other animals on a glean with you.

**You may give away what you glean** but it MUST be understood that what you pick Cannot Ever Be Sold. If anyone should make a profit off of the food we are given, it should be the farmer ONLY. However ETGC encourages our members to share/ trade gleaned items with other members and people who can make use of the items so that nthing goes to waist.

**Be kind to other members.** You must pick 10% addition for fellow members who are permanently or temporarily "Physically Unable to Glean." If you are finished picking for yourself, offer to help others around you, or help them with carrying things to their car. We are all about helping people and extending a hand is ALWAYS appreciated. Treat fellow gleaners with respect: Treat others the way you would like to be treated. If you have a problem, be open and try to handle things directly, and in a mature manner. Glean leader or field supervisor will have the final say in a dispute if one should arise.

**Membership privileges** can be suspended or removed at any time by any member of the ETGC Board of Directors and any instructor or field supervisor may ask you to leave any ETGC event at any time. Any member removed from any class or glean may appear at the next regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting to discuss the situation. ETGC reserves the right to except and denied membership as it sees fit for the good of the organization.