

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 membership card. Members are allowed to pick up items for other members, but must have membership cards for both members. Replacements for lost membership cards are available for a \$5 fee when requested by email; this will change the member's number, voiding the old membership card.

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 and 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 also suitable. Bring gloves and clippers, knives, 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 ensure they STAY WITH YOU 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, so plan ahead; rolling carts may be needed.

Children at Gleans/Classes/Events: Membership includes your entire household. Children are welcome to participate in events that do not have 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 disrupts an event, the adult responsible for the child may be asked to leave by the board member/instructor/field supervisor.

Getting your Required Volunteer Time: Follow the instructions posted on the event posting. The Volunteers are responsible for ensuring ETGC knows you volunteered at an event. ETGC can not give credit for any volunteer time we can not confirm. Each Event will have a sign-in sheet. Volunteers are responsible for finding this form and sign in. If you are unsure if anyone recorded your volunteer time, email EastTennesseeGleanersCoop@gmail.com ASAP with your name, member number, event name, arrival time, how long you were there, and what you did.

Listen to the Field Supervisors: The Field Supervisor of the glean is responsible for communicating the specifics of the glean and enforcing the boundaries that the farmer/homeowner tells us. They will enforce and maintain a favorable gleaning situation for ALL. They will direct children back to their parents and ensure proper field etiquette is ALWAYS in place. This person also ensures members sign in and out of the field, that items are weighed, and that donations are collected. If you have any questions or problems, please go to the field supervisor - NEVER to the farmer/landowner/host. - The Field Supervisor will know the location of nearby Bathroom Facilities we may use.

Animals at Gleans/Classes/Events: Pets/animals are not allowed at ETGC gleanings/classes/events as most of these events entail food products on agricultural land. ETGC will follow ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) rules pertaining to service animals found at <https://beta.ada.gov/topics/service-animals>. 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 for 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, which may lead to removing membership privileges.

Volunteer Hour Requirements for \$15 Volunteer Memberships

Ten hours of volunteer time is required for all \$15 Volunteer Memberships to be completed within the calendar year. Whether you join in January or August, you will still be charged a membership fee, and you must complete 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, helping with membership drives, distributing donated items, directing traffic, making phone calls, etc.... failure to complete 10 hours will cause loss of members good standing status. Members not in "Good Standing" will not be eligible for a \$15 Volunteer Membership for the following year; they will only be eligible for the \$35 Non-Volunteer membership.

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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.

Treat the Farmers and their Fields/Plants/Trees/Equipment with Respect: We are their guests, and being asked to come into their fields is a blessing to us and a benefit to our community. Let's make the owners glad we are there. No cursing or food fights; 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 fields have already been picked for profit, and 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. Never touch, move, or use any of the farmers' equipment, i.e., buckets, hoses, tools, tractors, etc...

No show at Registered Gleanings/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 inform us/attend an event they registered for twice within a member year will not be allowed to register for ETGC events for the remainder of the year.

Be Clean and Safe - Read the Rules Posted for the Glean or Class: No Smoking or Alcoholic Beverages are allowed in the fields or on homeowner's property! We do not want anyone leaving food wrappers or garbage at a glean or class site. Drinks should be brought in non-glass containers. Homeowners and Farmers are not liable for ANY injuries under the Good Samaritan Act. Please take every precaution to ensure SAFETY FIRST, not just for you but for the workers and equipment as well. Bringing dogs or other animals on a glean with you is never appropriate.

You may Give Away what you Glean: But it MUST be understood that what you pick Cannot Ever Be Sold. If anyone should profit from 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 nothing goes to waste.

Be Kind to Other Members: You may be asked to pick an extra percentage for fellow members who are permanently or temporarily "Unable to Glean." If you are finished picking for yourself, offer to help others around you or help them carry things to their car. We are all about helping people, and extending a hand is ALWAYS appreciated. Treat fellow gleaners respectfully: Treat others how you want 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.

We Glean what we Glean: Some gleanings, whether in a field or a distribution, may not produce enough for everyone, and all the produce gleaned may not be usable. ETGC is the last line for produce before the garbage. Members may have to cut off bruises, blemishes, rot, damage, or sort through overripe produce. The ETGC Member in charge of any event will decide the amount each member gets and when to stop based on the amount available. - Please be patient; sometimes there will be more than enough for everyone, and sometimes there will not be enough for everyone.

Membership Privileges: can be suspended and/or later removed by the ETGC Board of Directors. 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 accept or deny membership as it sees fit for the good of the organization.