



Gleaning Program Volunteer Packet

What is Gleaning?

CROS Gleaning is a program of CROS Ministries, in partnership with area Food Banks and other food distribution agencies in Palm Beach and Martin Counties. It is a food recovery strategy that allows produce that is below top market grade or unmarketable, but equally nutritious and beneficial to be harvested and distributed to the food insecure of Palm Beach and Martin Counties instead of being plowed back into the soil.

Since people live apart from where their food is grown, gleaning requires volunteers who will bridge the gap between the field and the pantry to bring food to locations where persons in need can receive it. Farmers donate the produce they cannot sell to CROS Ministries. Volunteers gather the produce. Our food-distributing partners then distribute the recovered produce to local agencies with feeding programs for individuals and families with low-incomes, seniors, people with disabilities, and the homeless. The food is given away free of charge.

Gleaning Boynton Beach & Delray Beach

Anticipated Starting Date: Mid-January continuing through Mid-May
Crop: Green peppers, tomatoes and cucumbers
Gleaning Method: Row crop

THINGS TO DO BEFORE GLEANING

1. All gleaners need to review “Rules and Helpful Hints” below for themselves and with their group.
2. Complete the “Gleaner’s Liability Waiver” and the “Assumption of Risk” form in this packet for **each gleaner** and bring with you to the gleaning site. Give them to the field supervisor at the gleaning site who is collecting them. You will need a gleaning form every time you come and glean with us. **Adults supervising groups also need a waiver form.**
3. Bring water and gloves for yourself and/or group.

Be sure to stress with your group/family that there are no absolute guarantees that you will be able to glean on the day that you have chosen. You, like the farmers, are depending on the weather and growing conditions of the season. CROS Ministries arranges for gleaning dates during the harvest time when it is most likely that there will be produce available for gleaning. Regrettably, dry or wet weather may affect the availability and condition of the produce. Rain on the day of or the days immediately preceding the planned gleaning may cause the field to be too wet to traverse.

RULES FOR GLEANERS

When gleaning, remember you are on another person's property. Treat it better than your own property. (Make sure you are leaving no water bottles, disposable gloves, candy wrappers, etc.). We are guests, please don't abuse the privilege, or we may lose it.

1. Every gleaner must complete the enclosed Gleaner Form. **All gleaners under 18 years of age must have the waiver signed by their parents and be accompanied by a supervising adult.**
2. All gleaners still in elementary, middle or high school must be accompanied by a supervising adult. This includes high school students 18 years of age or older.
3. **In the field, the field supervisor is in charge.** Follow his/her instructions and directions completely. They are there to protect your safety, the safety of the produce and to protect the property owner's interest. Glean only in those areas designated by the field supervisor.
4. **Children five years of age and older are only allowed to glean with direct adult supervision. Children ages 5 and 6 must** be within arm's reach of a responsible adult at all times. Some gleaning events are limited to older participants. These are designated on the schedule as 13+.
5. Safety is of the utmost important in gleaning. **If any activity is questionable do not do it.** Such safety practices include:
 - Do not climb trees or fences.
 - Do not ride on the back of moving vehicles.
 - Stay away from farm machinery, canals and roadways.
 - Maintain a safe distance from other gleaners.

The field supervisor can cancel a gleaning at any time if he/she feels these rules are not being followed.

6. No pets please, it is not safe for them and a violation of food safety practices.

HELPFUL HINTS

1. It is often good to dress in layers. In the morning, it is likely to be colder and damp, wearing a long sleeve shirt and long pants are recommended. As it gets warmer, a short sleeve shirt may be better. **Closed toed shoes are required.** No flip flops or open toed or heel shoes are permitted.
2. In cornfields, long pants are needed. Leaves from the corn stalks are sharp and can cut the skin.
3. It is recommended that all gleaners wear hats in the field, apply sunscreen, and have bug spray handy in case insects are an issue.
4. Bathroom facilities are unavailable in most gleaning fields. It is advisable to use the bathroom prior to coming to the field.
5. A three to five gallon pail with a handle is an excellent container to carry through the field. Fill it and empty it into the packing box or bin. We will have some on hand for you.
6. **Mangoes are a member of the poison ivy family.** Those with that allergy are encouraged not to glean mangoes.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When will I know where we are gleaning? The growers notify CROS at the beginning of the week what field they might have available for gleaning the upcoming weekend. The gleaning director then travels to the field usually on Monday to map out directions. It is our goal to send out directions by Monday afternoon. If field directions are going to be delayed, you will be notified.

Can I choose where we glean? We pick what is ready to be picked where it is ready to be picked. We offer suggestions about what is likely to be in season at certain locations, but on a specific weekend we have to get what is ready for harvest or lose it. We understand if you need something close to your residence and we do try to accommodate you. We also need volunteers who are willing to be inconvenienced and go the extra mile to get what would otherwise be lost. We hope you rise to that challenge.

Are there bathrooms at the field? In most instances, no.

What are the times? We glean from 8:30 am until 11:30 am. We finish early if we have filled the capacity of the box truck.

Do I have to wear a mask? We dropped the requirement for masking during last season when it became clear that outdoor transmission of the coronavirus was rare. We do not require gleaners to wear masks, but they are permitted for those who want to wear them. We do ask that people respect others space while gleaning.

Gleaning – Biblical References

Gleaning as a practice to combat hunger is thousands of years old. The people most likely to be hunger victims during the times of the Hebrew Scriptures were widows, orphans and people traveling through the land called Sojourners. *“When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the alien. I am the Lord your God.”* (Leviticus 19:9-10) other references include Deuteronomy 24:19-22 & Ruth 2:2ff.

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Gleaner's Liability Waiver for 2021-2022 Gleaning Season

Please complete and bring to the field with you each time you glean.

REQUIRED: In the event I or my child suffer any illness or accident requiring emergency or hospitalization, medication or surgery while participating in this gleaning, on the recommendation of the doctor, after consultation with the adults in charge of this event, I hereby give my permission for any medical treatment which may deem necessary and reasonable under the circumstances, understanding that the gleaning coordinator or other responsible person will contact me at the earliest possible moment. I fully understand and comprehend that reasonable care will be exercised by the adult staff for this gleaning event to protect the safety of those involved.

Photos, videos, audio and other images in which I appear that are taken during gleanings may be used by CROS Ministries for news coverage, newsletters, publicity, reports, displays, and for other print, broadcast, web or electronic news or promotional purposes.

Safety is of paramount importance in a gleaning event. For the protection of all involved, this disclaimer is necessary: I do not hold the board members or employees of CROS Ministries, Palm Beach County Food Bank, or any volunteers liable for any injury, bodily harm, accident or death of myself/my child during gleaning events sponsored by CROS Ministries. Neither will I hold the person(s) who own and/or operate the farm(s), business, plant, orchards, groves or the homeowner who owns the backyard, from which we glean, liable for accidents, injury, or death during the gleaning events.

For events at Agri-Gators, Inc. the following also applies: Safety is of paramount importance in a gleaning event. For the protection of all involved, this disclaimer is necessary: I do not hold the person(s) who own and/or operate the farm(s), or employees of Agri-Gators, or any volunteers liable for any injury, bodily harm, accident or death of myself/my child during gleaning events.

Name _____ Age _____
Print

Signature _____ Date _____
Gleaner

Group _____

**If Gleaner is under 18 or 18+ and still in High School
 Parent must sign below**

Signature _____ Date _____
Parent/guardian if gleaner is under 18 years of age

Supervising Adult _____

Notify in Case of Emergency

Name _____ Relationship _____

Cell Phone (____) _____ Alternate Phone # (____) _____

Medical Conditions or Drug Allergies: _____

Community Service Hours Section

I would like community service hours for this event. You must provide an email address below.

E-mail address _____

CROS Ministries' Gleaning Program is funded, in whole or in part through a subrecipient grant awarded by the United States Department of Agriculture through the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The contents in these materials/presentation do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the United States Department of Agriculture nor does mention of trade names, commercial productions, services or organization imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

**Assumption of the Risk and Waiver of Liability
Relating to Coronavirus/COVID-19 – Adult and Minor
SERIOUS RISK - PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**

The coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. COVID-19 is extremely contagious and is believed to spread mainly from person-to-person contact. As a result, federal, state, and local governments and federal and state health agencies recommend social distancing and have, in many locations, prohibited the congregation of groups of people.

CROS has put in place reasonable preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19; however, CROS cannot guarantee that you or your child(ren) will not become infected with COVID-19. Further, presence at CROS program sites could increase your risk and your child(ren)'s risk of contracting COVID-19. Persons in vulnerable populations (in the state of Florida this has been defined as persons over the age of 65 or those with underlying medical conditions) are encouraged to stay home. This guidance is consistent with the guidance from the federal and state government and the CDC.

By signing this agreement, I acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19 and voluntarily assume the risk that my child(ren) and I may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability, and death. I understand that the risk of becoming exposed to or infected by COVID-19 at CROS program sites may result from the actions, omissions, or negligence of myself and others, including, but not limited to, CROS employees, volunteers, and program participants and their families.

On behalf of myself, my family members and my child(ren), I voluntarily agree to assume all of the foregoing risks and accept sole responsibility for any injury to my child(ren) or myself (including, but not limited to, personal injury, disability, and death), illness, damage, loss, claim, liability, or expense, of any kind, that I or my child(ren) may experience or incur in connection with my child(ren)'s or my presence at CROS program sites or participation in CROS programs or CROS events due to COVID-19 ("Claims"). On my behalf, and on behalf of my children, I hereby release, waive, covenant not to sue, discharge, and hold harmless CROS, its employees, agents, and representatives, of and from the Claims, including all liabilities, claims, actions, damages, costs or expenses of any kind arising out of or relating thereto. I understand and agree that this release includes any Claims based on the actions, omissions, or negligence of CROS, its employees, agents, vendors or contractors and representatives, whether a COVID-19 infection occurs before, during, or after participation in any CROS program.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Print Name of Parent/Guardian

Name(s) of Participant(s)

Name(s) of Participant(s)

Name(s) of Participant(s)