



*40 years of lifesharing... A lifetime of memories*

Innisfree Village is a lifesharing community with adults with intellectual disabilities, the volunteers who come from all over the world to work with them, and the staff and interns who give their time to help in other aspects of daily life. We are located on a 550 acre farm at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains, near Charlottesville, Virginia. Community members live in family style homes on the farm or in one of the two houses in a downtown Charlottesville neighborhood.

For the men and women with disabilities, known at Innisfree as coworkers, we offer an alternative to the narrower life of an institution. Innisfree provides the setting to live a life of greater independence and personal achievement. Most of our time and energy in the Village centers around the workstations, which provide the members of our community with therapeutic, meaningful work. The products from the bakery, farm, gardens, kitchen, weavery and woodshop are beautiful, useful and greatly appreciated by many people in Central Virginia.

Innisfree represents a unique opportunity for an internship. Interns spend their days on the farm, helping with all the aspects of running animals in a complex grazing system. In the evenings, they spend time with the volunteers and coworkers in their house or with others around the village. With such a variety of people from all over the world, there is always something new to learn and a new point of view to explore. Interns are also expected to cook for their house at least once per week. This is a great way to get to know the members of your house and to feel the sense of community that we share here.

On the farm, we currently raise beef cattle, sheep, and chickens. Daily tasks are varied and change with the seasons. We perform periodic health checks on both the cattle and sheep, making sure they are doing well and are prepared for whatever stresses may be coming (heat/cold, giving birth/nursing, etc.). During the growing season, most of our days will be spent setting up temporary fencing and moving animals. In the non-growing season, we spend our time bringing feed to the animals and getting around to all the projects we were too busy to do during the summer. This is a great time to work on our permanent fence infrastructure, small building projects, and to do a bit of firewood processing for the Village.

One way that the farm staff interfaces with coworkers is in our cooperation with the Farm Workstation. While we work out in the fields, coworkers in the Village help with egg washing, wool cleaning and processing, and cleaning out our barn. We work closely with the Farm Workstation Head in helping to provide potential activities and support to these coworkers.

As in any farm, it is fairly difficult to go into all the duties of our day-to-day. The chores are the steady breathing in and breathing out of the farm—the pieces that keep it alive. Special projects provide the attention needed to help it thrive. Our schedule is a mix of the two, with the hope that we always walk home at the end of the day leaving behind a farm that is working just a little bit better than it did the day before.

Call or email for further information. I look forward to hearing from you,

Nich Traverse  
[nich@innisfreevillage.org](mailto:nich@innisfreevillage.org)  
434.327.7469

---

Innisfree Village  
5505 Walnut Level Road  
Crozet, Virginia 22932

434-823-5400 Phone  
434-823-5027 Fax

email: [info@innisfreevillage.org](mailto:info@innisfreevillage.org)  
website: [www.innisfreevillage.org](http://www.innisfreevillage.org)

## **Innisfree Farm Internship Job Description**



The farm internship at Innisfree is an opportunity for the applicant to gain experience in animal husbandry and the practice of rotational grazing. Interns help with the daily cattle and sheep moves and observations, with the intent that they will work towards proficiency in understanding what goes into making daily decisions. They are exposed to animal health checks for both sheep and cattle, how to evaluate animals for health concerns and how to safely and effectively work with them. As a compliment to these areas, interns will be involved in the upkeep and installation of permanent fence infrastructure, and the use and maintenance of farm machinery.

In addition to these tasks, interns assist the Farm Workstation with various chicken and egg related duties. Each intern is required to work one weekend day focusing on chicken chores (collecting, washing and sorting eggs from 400+ chickens), as well as help with the weekly chicken move every Thursday morning.

### **Compensation:**

For compensation, we provide housing, food, and a monthly stipend of \$400.

Internship housing will be provided within one of the community houses of Innisfree village. This will be in a single, private room, with access to common rooms and kitchen. Meals will be provided by the village, unless other arrangements are made. We have community lunches on Monday, and Wednesday through Friday. Breakfast and dinner will be made in the house, along with the lunches that are not provided in the community center. In most cases the intern will be asked to contribute to their household by cooking one meal per week, along with the upkeep of clean living spaces.

**You must be able to interact with the residents of our village in a kind, safe, and respectful way.**

**Innisfree Village has a ZERO Tolerance Policy for illegal drugs.** The use or possession of illegal drugs within our community jeopardizes the very existence of the Village as a licensed facility. In addition, any intern found to be inappropriately under the influence of alcoholic beverages within the Village will be subject to dismissal.

**Innisfree Farm  
Application for Internship**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Past Employment**

Dates	Employer	Address/Phone	Description	Reason for Leaving

**References**

Name	Position/Relation	Years Known	Phone Number

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Phone

Dates Available- From: \_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_\_\_

INNISFREE VILLAGE  
5505 Walnut Level Road · Crozet, VA 22932  
Telephone: 434.823.5400 · Fax: 434.823.5027  
[www.innisfreevillage.org](http://www.innisfreevillage.org)

**We would like to know more about you and why you would like to apply to this particular internship. Feel free to attach a separate sheet of paper if necessary.**

What experiences or skills do you have that would be relevant to working on our farm?

---

---

---

---

What are your career goals? How do you think this internship will help you achieve those goals?

---

---

---

---

You will be living in a family style house with adults with disabilities. What experiences do you have that will prepare you for this?

---

---

---

---

**Please include your résumé along with this application**

**If you have a driver's license, please fill out the Driving History Questionnaire.**

**All interns must submit or bring proof from a physician that they are free from tuberculosis.**

**All interns must be up to date on tetanus immunization.**

**Innisfree requires criminal background checks as part of the hiring process. By signing below, you authorize Innisfree to conduct a criminal background check via a third-party provider and the VA State Police.**

I understand that if any of the information I have given on this application is false, my position at Innisfree may be terminated.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Helpful Information for this Application**

Driving Questionnaire – Please respond fully to the questions on the driving questionnaire, as this helps us know if you will be considered eligible to drive the community cars. If you are accepted, you will also need to go on a short driving test with one of the members of the car committee.

Tuberculosis screening – Part of our state licensing requires each community member showing proof that they are free from tuberculosis when they arrive at the community. You DO NOT need to submit TB paperwork with your application. We recommend that interns wait to see if they are accepted first. The paperwork is required to be recent within 30 days of arrival – so, for example, if you submit a TB screening with your application in October, and you will be planning on starting in January, you will have to undergo a second screening.

Background check – As Innisfree serves what is considered to be a vulnerable population, we require background checks of all employees. We no longer require applicants to send these on their own, as we are now able to run background checks through a third-party provider. We will do this as part of your application process, and will discuss anything that comes up in a follow-up conversation.

Please note that interns are not allowed to bring pets along with them to live in the village.

Please attach a resume or any other useful information to your application if you think it will give us a better sense of who you are and how you would fit into our community.

If you are curious about what life is like here, please visit our website at [www.innisfreevillage.org](http://www.innisfreevillage.org). The site has a lot of information about us along with many pictures and short videos. If you look at the sections under “Daily Life” and “Workstations”, it will give you a good idea of what to expect here.

Thank you for your time and feel free to contact us at any point during the process if you have any questions. While many general questions about the village can be answered by our office staff, any questions about the farm should be directed towards the farm staff.

Farm: [nich@innisfreevillage.org](mailto:nich@innisfreevillage.org), 434.327.7469

Office: [info@innisfreevillage.org](mailto:info@innisfreevillage.org), 434.823.5400

## Innisfree Village Driving History Questionnaire

(for applicants who have a driver's license, either American or international)

*Driving is a part of life and work at Innisfree since we are a rural community, however, no volunteer is automatically eligible to drive Village vehicles. In order to ensure the safety of volunteers and coworkers and the protection of our cars, we carefully review a volunteer's driving history to determine if they will be approved to drive village vehicles and to transport coworkers.*

How long have you had a driver's license?

When and where was your driver's license issued?

Has your driver's license ever been revoked? If so, when and why?

Do you have any qualifiers on your driver's license (eg required corrective lenses)?

Have you ever had a DUI (driving under the influence)?

Please list any driving offenses in the last three years (speeding tickets, moving violations, etc)

Please describe your driving history – the frequency and continuity of your driving experience (eg – have you driven in the city or the countryside, do you have experience driving a van or some other larger vehicle, have you gone for long periods without driving, do you have experience/feel comfortable with winter driving, etc).

Please describe your driver's education experience.