

Desert Harvesters

Hammermill Rental & Mesquite Milling Terms

Updated February 1, 2017

We, **Desert Harvesters**, barring inclement weather conditions or other circumstances beyond our control, look forward to working with you and providing the following for your Month Day Year milling event:

- The hammermill and associated equipment,
- Coordination of transportation for the hammermill and our staff,
- Gasoline to power only the mill motor, and
- Two (2) trained operators to run the mill.

Please read, initial at the end of each item, sign and date at the bottom, and return this sheet with your non-refundable deposit to: Desert Harvesters, P.O. Box 92, Tucson AZ 85702.

I, Host Organization Representative, on behalf of **Host Organization**, agree to the following terms in order to support a smooth, safe, and enjoyable event for all staff, volunteers, and attendees. THANK YOU! _____

1. Desert Harvesters is currently renting its hammermill for public events in hot, low-desert areas (below 3,500-foot elevation) from May 1 through July 4 only. The latter date was chosen to assure the milling season concludes before the typical start of the summer rainy season, after which aflatoxin levels have been shown to be higher. The limitation does not apply to private (unadvertised) millings or to those taking place in cooler, high-desert areas. _____

This is intended to send a clear message to the public about the importance of harvesting mesquite pods *before* the rains to help ensure higher-quality harvests safe from [aflatoxin](#) (www.desertharvesters.org/harvesting-processing/aflatoxins-how-to-avoid-them). Similarly, this is why any Desert Harvesters-hosted low-desert milling events now happen in June.

See [here](#) and [here](#) for information about the study that informed this policy.

2. Rental fee for the hammermill is dependent on nature of renters' operations and location of the milling event. **Fees for non-profit groups are listed below. Other renters pay an additional \$100 per day.** _____

- \$350 per day** for Tucson-area non-profit groups whose event will take place up to 40 miles from Desert Harvesters' mill-storage location in downtown Tucson.
- \$400 per day for Southern-Arizona non-profit groups whose event will take place over 40 miles from said mill-storage location. In case the milling time runs longer than six hours, the host organization must be prepared to provide a free place for mill staff and mill to spend the night. Meals for staff are appreciated.

Advance payment of the hammermill rental fee is required as a non-refundable* deposit to secure your milling date and have your event published on our website and social media. *Deposit is fully refundable only if Desert Harvesters explicitly fails to uphold its end of this agreement. _____

A **rescheduling fee** of \$100 applies to hosts wishing to reschedule their confirmed event who do so **at least 24 hours before the scheduled start time of their event.** _____

A **rescheduling fee** of \$100 **plus** any labor &/or travel expenses incurred applies to hosts wishing to reschedule their confirmed event who do so **less than 24 hours before the scheduled start time of their event.** _____

Hosts who **cancel** their milling for any reason, including weather, and opt *not* to reschedule will **forfeit one day's hammermill-rental fee plus any labor &/or travel costs incurred.** Note that the mill will not be operated in the event of *any* precipitation at the milling site. In addition, under humid conditions milling can take 3 times longer than normal, or more, while producing lower yields.

3. In addition to the hammermill fee, a **volunteer deposit** is due in advance to schedule your event with Desert Harvesters. If conditions in item 8, below, are met, this deposit will be credited toward payment of Desert Harvesters milling staff. If conditions in item 8 are not fully met, deposit will be used to pay an additional Desert Harvesters staff to oversee tasting, inspection, and ticketing station. Volunteer deposits are listed below. _____

- **\$200 per day** for Tucson-area groups whose events will take place up to 40 miles from Desert Harvesters' mill-storage location in downtown Tucson.
- \$250 per day for Southern-Arizona groups whose events take place > 40 miles from mill-storage location.

4. When conducting **publicity for its milling event** (e.g., press releases, flyers, website posts, etc), Host Organization must include a **link to the Best Practices for Harvest & Processing page on Desert Harvesters' website.** _____

5. Desert Harvesters strongly encourages Host Organization to:

- Send its members to **our annual pre-monsoon in-the-field harvesting workshop** in June, _____
- Conduct **its own annual pre-monsoon harvesting workshop** in its community, _____ and
- Consider organizing **pre-monsoon milling event(s) in its community.** _____

6. Host Organization agrees to use the **same milling-fee structure as Desert Harvesters** unless an alternate fee structure is approved by Desert Harvesters in advance. _____

7. Host Organization will be billed **\$30 per hour** for **each Desert Harvesters staff person** packing up, transporting, and operating the mill; set-up and breakdown at the location of the milling event; cleaning the mill; & unpacking the mill at its storage location.

Note: *Mill staff will work up to 8 hours per day (including packing/ unpacking, set-up, milling, breakdown, and cleaning). If completion of event requires working beyond these 8 hours, both host organization and mill staff must agree whether milling will continue that day. If the mill staff are requested to work beyond the 8 hours and agree to this, the overtime hourly rate for mill staff increases to \$45 per hour per person.* _____

8. Desert Harvesters requires reimbursement from Host Organization for **all-inclusive travel costs**

to cover transport from mill storage near downtown Tucson to and from the milling site. Travel costs will be billed at the then-current federal per-mile commercial rate. _____

9. Host Organization must provide trained and competent volunteers to assist at the milling event. **At least three (3) volunteers must attend and successfully complete Desert Harvesters' annual tasting, inspection, & ticketing training session plus training to feed pods into mill.** Volunteers are invited (but not required) to also **attend our mill-operation training**, held annually in **June**.

At *Host Organization's* milling event, volunteers must be onsite, ready to work at least 30 minutes before milling is scheduled to begin. **If 3 trained volunteers are not confirmed by name 48 hours in advance, Desert Harvesters will send an additional staff person & retain volunteer deposit** (see item 2) **in addition to charging Host Organization for the 2 millers.** We encourage you to send more than 3 volunteers to our training and schedule more than 3 of these trained volunteers for your event. _____

10. Host Organization must provide electricity to the mill site, via extension cord, to power a shop vac. This is needed for the milling as the hammermill requires frequent, thorough cleaning of its chaff chamber. _____

11. Host Organization must provide a spot with sufficient natural shade (2 sizeable shade trees) or 2 moveable shade structures for inspection of pods and ticketing functions. _____

12. Host Organization must provide a minimum of four (4) 6-foot tables (clean non-porous surfaces or covered with clean tablecloths) to be used as pod-inspection stations. _____

13. As a representative of Host Organization, I have read the **Mesquite Milling Guidelines and Requirements** online at www.desertharvesters.org/how-we-run-mesquite-millings. In particular, I agree to inform attendees in advance of the listed pod-quality health & safety requirements and uphold these requirements at our event. _____

Signature of Host Organization representative

Signature of Desert Harvesters representative

Printed name & role/title with Host Organization

Printed DH Name/Title

Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

Date (MM/DD/YYYY)