TERMS AND CONDITIONS

STEAM ONWARD, Inc.
DBA as Ujamaa Cooperative Farming Alliance (UCFA) | DBA as Ujamaa Seeds

Effective Date: January 1, 2026
Last Updated: November 22, 2026
Website: https://steamonward.org
Contact Email: steamonward.org@gmail.com

1. Introduction and Acceptance of Terms

Welcome to STEAM ONWARD, Inc. and the Ujamaa Cooperative Farming Alliance (UCFA).

STEAM ONWARD, Inc. ("STEAM ONWARD," "we," "our," or "us") is a nonprofit organization recognized as tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Ujamaa Cooperative Farming Alliance (UCFA) is a program of STEAM ONWARD, Inc. Ujamaa Seeds operates as a seed distribution, marketing, and sales initiative within UCFA.

Our mission includes promoting agricultural education, ethical seed stewardship, seed sovereignty, cultural preservation, agricultural biodiversity, and equitable opportunities for historically underserved farming communities.

These Terms and Conditions ("Terms") govern your access to and use of our websites, online stores, donation platforms, educational resources, conference registration systems, and related services (collectively, the "Services").

By accessing our Services, purchasing products, making donations, registering for events, subscribing to communications, or participating in programs, you agree to these Terms and our Privacy Policy.

If you do not agree with these Terms, please discontinue use of the applicable Services.

Certain programs, purchases, or events may have additional terms, which will be disclosed when applicable.

2. Organizational Identity and Nonprofit Status

STEAM ONWARD, Inc. is the legal nonprofit entity responsible for its charitable activities, including those conducted through Ujamaa Cooperative Farming Alliance (UCFA) and UJAMAA SEEDS.

UCFA promotes seed conservation, preservation, agricultural education, seed production, community partnerships, and culturally significant heirloom crops.

Ujamaa Seeds, a non-profit entrepreneurial division of UCFA offers seeds and related merchandise to gardeners, farmers, educational institutions, community organizations, and other customers.

Purchases of products or services through Ujamaa Seeds are commercial transactions and are not charitable donations, even when the proceeds support our nonprofit mission.

Our tax-exempt status does not automatically make purchases, conference registration fees, or other payments tax-deductible.

3. Website Eligibility and Acceptable Use

Our general website content is intended for a broad public audience. Individuals making purchases, donations, or contractual commitments must be at least 18 years old or have authorization from a parent or legal guardian.

Users agree to:

- Provide accurate and current information when completing transactions or registrations.
- Use our Services for lawful purposes.
- Respect the intellectual property and privacy rights of others.
- Refrain from attempting unauthorized access to website accounts, databases, or payment systems.
- Avoid transmitting malicious software or interfering with website operations.
- Refrain from fraudulent purchases, donations, registrations, or misrepresentations.

We may restrict access, cancel transactions, or suspend accounts when reasonably necessary to address fraud, security threats, unlawful conduct, or violations of these Terms, subject to applicable law.

4. Charitable Donations and Contributions

4.1 Voluntary Contributions

STEAM ONWARD accepts charitable contributions to support its mission and programs, including UCFA's agricultural education, seed conservation, farmer development, research, and community initiatives.

Donations are voluntary and do not establish ownership, membership, employment, or entitlement to organizational services.

4.2 Tax-Deductible Contributions

Contributions to STEAM ONWARD may qualify as charitable deductions under applicable federal and state tax laws.

Deductibility depends on the donor's circumstances, the nature of the contribution, and whether goods or services are received in exchange.

Donors should consult qualified tax professionals regarding their individual tax circumstances.

STEAM ONWARD will provide appropriate donation acknowledgments as required by law.

4.3 Designated and Restricted Donations

Donors may designate contributions for specific programs or initiatives when such designations are offered and accepted by STEAM ONWARD.

Accepted donor restrictions will be honored in accordance with applicable law and the terms of the gift.

If a proposed restriction cannot be accepted, STEAM ONWARD may decline the contribution or seek the donor's agreement to alternative terms.

Funds will not be redirected contrary to legally binding donor restrictions without appropriate authorization.

4.4 Donation Processing

Online donations may be processed through third-party payment providers, including PayPal and other authorized payment services.

These providers may maintain separate privacy policies, transaction rules, and security procedures.

Donors are responsible for reviewing applicable payment terms.

4.5 Donation Refunds

Charitable contributions are generally considered final once accepted and processed.

Refund requests involving duplicate transactions, processing errors, unauthorized charges, or exceptional circumstances will be reviewed individually.

Refunds will be issued when required by law or when approved by STEAM ONWARD.

Refund requests should be submitted to [Insert Donation Contact Email] with the transaction date, amount, and relevant payment details. Donors should not transmit complete payment card numbers by email.

4.6 Recurring Donations

When recurring giving is offered, donors authorize the stated payment amount and frequency at enrollment.

Donors may cancel future recurring contributions through the applicable payment platform or by contacting STEAM ONWARD.

Cancellation will apply to future payments once processed and will not automatically reverse completed contributions.

4.7 Donor Recognition

STEAM ONWARD may recognize donors in publications, annual reports, event materials, or other communications when appropriate and consistent with donor preferences and applicable privacy requirements.

Donors may request anonymity or decline public recognition.

5. Donor Privacy and Confidentiality

STEAM ONWARD respects the privacy and confidentiality of individuals, businesses, foundations, and institutions supporting our mission.

Donor information may include names, contact details, contribution histories, donation designations, and transaction records.

We use donor information for legitimate organizational purposes, including:

- Processing and acknowledging donations.
- Maintaining financial and tax records.
- Communicating about charitable programs and organizational activities.
- Preparing required financial reports and regulatory filings.
- Supporting donor stewardship and fundraising activities, consistent with applicable law and donor preferences.

STEAM ONWARD does not sell donor lists or donor personal information.

We do not exchange donor information with unrelated organizations for their independent fundraising or marketing purposes without appropriate authorization.

Donor information may be shared with authorized service providers when reasonably necessary to process contributions, maintain records, provide requested services, or meet legal obligations.

Certain donor information may be subject to legally required disclosure to government agencies or other authorized recipients.

Requests concerning donor privacy may be submitted to **https://info@ujamaafarms.com**.

6. Ujamaa Seeds Online Store and Product Purchases

6.1 Product Offerings

Ujamaa Seeds provides heirloom, open-pollinated, culturally significant, and other agricultural seed varieties, together with selected educational materials and merchandise.

Product descriptions are intended to provide useful information concerning variety characteristics, cultural histories, growing conditions, and cultivation practices.

We make reasonable efforts to provide accurate product descriptions, photographs, pricing, and availability information.

However, product appearance and performance may vary due to natural genetic diversity, environmental conditions, growing practices, and other factors.

6.2 Seed Availability and Substitutions

Seed availability depends on seasonal production, harvest quality, inventory, supplier availability, and other agricultural factors.

We reserve the right to limit quantities or discontinue products.

We will not substitute a different seed variety for an ordered variety without obtaining customer authorization.

If a purchased product becomes unavailable, customers will be offered an appropriate refund or an agreed alternative.

6.3 Pricing and Payment

Prices are displayed in U.S. dollars unless otherwise stated.

Applicable shipping charges, taxes, and other transaction costs will be disclosed during checkout.

Orders are subject to payment authorization and acceptance.

We reserve the right to correct obvious pricing or listing errors. Customers affected by such errors may cancel the transaction for a refund.

6.4 Order Confirmation

An automated order acknowledgment confirms receipt of an order but does not necessarily constitute final acceptance.

Orders may be reviewed for inventory availability, payment authorization, shipping eligibility, and suspected fraud.

Customers will be notified when an order cannot be fulfilled.

6.5 Shipping and Delivery

Shipping options, costs, and estimated delivery periods will be presented at checkout or in the applicable Shipping Policy.

Delivery estimates are not guaranteed arrival dates unless expressly identified as guaranteed.

Customers are responsible for providing accurate shipping information.

Responsibility for lost, damaged, delayed, or misdelivered orders will be determined under our published Shipping Policy and applicable law.

6.6 Seed Germination and Agricultural Performance

Seeds are living agricultural products whose performance depends on storage, planting conditions, temperature, moisture, soil health, pest pressure, and cultivation methods.

Ujamaa Seeds seeks to provide accurately identified, appropriately handled, and viable seed products.

Where applicable, seed labeling, germination information, and seed testing will follow relevant federal and state requirements.

No guarantee is made regarding specific crop yields, harvest quantities, market value, or performance under particular growing conditions unless expressly stated in writing.

Nothing in these Terms limits statutory seed quality, labeling, warranty, or consumer protection rights that cannot lawfully be waived.

6.7 Seed Stewardship and Conservation

Ujamaa Seeds promotes ethical seed stewardship and the conservation of agricultural biodiversity.

Customers are encouraged to preserve varietal identity, maintain appropriate isolation distances when saving seed, document seed histories, and respect the cultural communities associated with traditional crop varieties.

Educational descriptions of cultural heritage or seed origins do not, by themselves, impose additional legal restrictions on customers.

Any specific seed-sharing, licensing, or contractual restrictions will be disclosed separately before purchase.

6.8 Seed Shipping Restrictions

Certain seeds may be subject to federal, state, local, or international restrictions involving noxious weeds, plant pests, phytosanitary requirements, quarantine rules, or other agricultural regulations.

Customers are responsible for complying with laws applicable to planting and possessing seeds in their location.

Ujamaa Seeds may decline or cancel orders that cannot lawfully be shipped.

International shipments, if offered, may require additional documentation and approval.

6.9 Returns, Refunds, and Damaged Merchandise

Proposed policy — subject to organizational approval:

Due to the biological nature of seeds and concerns about storage conditions, seed packets generally are not eligible for return after delivery, except when required by law or when an order is incorrect, defective, damaged, or otherwise eligible for a remedy.

Customers should contact [Insert Customer Service Email] within 14 days of delivery to report missing, damaged, incorrect, or potentially defective products.

Customers may be asked to provide the order number, product information, and photographs where relevant.

Eligible claims will be addressed through replacement, refund, or another appropriate remedy.

For non-seed merchandise, returns will follow the published Return and Refund Policy.

These provisions do not restrict any nonwaivable consumer rights or remedies.

7. Educational Materials and Agricultural Information

STEAM ONWARD and UCFA provide educational content concerning seed farming, sustainable agriculture, food production, conservation, and related subjects.

Information may be provided through websites, publications, workshops, videos, courses, conferences, and other learning activities.

Educational materials are provided for general informational purposes and are not substitutes for site-specific professional advice, laboratory testing, regulatory guidance, or professional agricultural consultation.

Participants remain responsible for evaluating whether recommended techniques are suitable for their circumstances.

Historical, botanical, and cultural information may evolve as new research becomes available.

8. Conference and Event Registration

8.1 Registration

STEAM ONWARD and UCFA may organize conferences, educational workshops, seed schools, farm demonstrations, networking activities, and other events, including the SEEDS & CULTURE Conference.

Registration may be conducted through our websites or authorized third-party event platforms.

Participants must provide accurate registration information and comply with applicable event policies.

8.2 Registration Fees

Registration fees, deadlines, early-bird discounts, and applicable charges will be disclosed before payment.

Registration is confirmed when the applicable requirements are completed and payment, if required, is accepted.

8.3 Cancellation and Refunds

Proposed standard policy — subject to approval for each event:

- Cancellation 30 or more calendar days before an event: full refund, less any clearly disclosed, nonrefundable processing fees.
- Cancellation 15–29 calendar days before an event: 50% refund.
- Cancellation fewer than 15 calendar days before an event: no refund, except as required by law or expressly provided by event-specific terms.
- Registrations may be transferred to another eligible participant with advance written approval.

Any event-specific cancellation policy disclosed before registration will control over this general policy.

8.4 Event Changes or Cancellation

STEAM ONWARD/UCFA reserves the right to modify event schedules, speakers, session topics, locations, or delivery formats when reasonably necessary.

If an event is canceled by STEAM ONWARD/UCFA, registrants will be offered a refund of registration fees or another option they voluntarily

accept. If an event is postponed, participants will receive information about the revised date and available refund or transfer options.

8.5 Participant Conduct

All participants are expected to engage respectfully and refrain from harassment, discrimination, threats, disruptive conduct, or behavior that endangers others.

We may remove individuals who violate reasonable event conduct or safety requirements.

Refund eligibility following removal will be determined according to applicable law and the circumstances.

8.6 Photography and Recording

Conferences and events may include photography, video recording, or audio recording for documentation, education, and promotional purposes.

Attendees will be informed when event recording is planned.

Where consent is required, appropriate authorization will be obtained.

Separate permission will be sought when necessary for identifiable images or recordings of minors.

Participants may contact event organizers to discuss privacy concerns or available alternatives.

8.7 Exhibitors, Vendors, and Sponsors

Exhibitors, vendors, and sponsors may be subject to separate written agreements addressing fees, benefits, advertising, display space, merchandise, cancellation, and other obligations.

Such agreements will govern in the event of a conflict with these general Terms concerning the relevant sponsorship or exhibitor arrangement.

9. Youth Programs and Parental Consent

STEAM ONWARD and UCFA may provide educational activities for children and young people, including gardening, environmental education, agricultural science, seed conservation, and related learning experiences.

9.1 Enrollment and Authorization

Participation by minors may require registration by a parent or legal guardian and completion of applicable consent documents.

Program eligibility, age ranges, supervision requirements, and other conditions will be communicated before enrollment.

9.2 Youth Safety

STEAM ONWARD seeks to maintain safe and respectful learning environments.

Participants must follow program safety instructions, including those involving agricultural tools, outdoor activities, weather conditions, and other foreseeable hazards.

Program staff and volunteers must comply with applicable youth protection procedures.

9.3 Medical and Emergency Information

Where necessary for safe program administration, parents or guardians may be asked to provide emergency contact information and relevant health or accommodation information.

Such information will be collected and handled in accordance with applicable privacy requirements and the organization's youth safety procedures.

Separate emergency medical authorization may be required for in-person activities.

9.4 Children's Online Privacy

STEAM ONWARD recognizes the importance of protecting children's personal information.

When the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act and its implementing regulations apply, we will provide required notices, obtain verifiable parental consent where necessary, and honor applicable parental rights concerning access, deletion, and further collection or use.

We will not knowingly collect personal information online from children under 13 in circumstances requiring parental consent without obtaining that consent or relying on a lawful exception.

We seek to limit the collection of children's information to what is reasonably necessary for the applicable activity.

9.5 Photography and Media Consent

Use of identifiable photographs, videos, testimonials, or recordings of minors for public promotional purposes requires appropriate parental or guardian authorization.

Such authorization will be requested separately from general program enrollment when appropriate.

Declining optional promotional media consent will not, by itself, disqualify a child from participating.

9.6 Youth Program Participation Agreements

Certain activities may require additional permission forms, safety acknowledgments, emergency contact forms, or other documents.

These documents supplement these Terms and do not waive rights that cannot legally be waived.

10. Email Communications and Newsletters

STEAM ONWARD and UCFA may distribute newsletters, program announcements, educational resources, fundraising appeals, product updates, and event communications.

Individuals may voluntarily subscribe through website forms, purchases, registrations, or other authorized methods.

Providing an email address for a purchase, donation, or registration does not automatically constitute consent to receive every category of promotional communication.

We will obtain consent where required by applicable law.

10.1 Transactional Communications

We may send communications reasonably necessary to fulfill transactions or administer requested services, including receipts, shipping notifications, registration confirmations, and important program updates.

10.2 Promotional Communications

Marketing and fundraising communications will comply with applicable email and privacy laws.

Recipients may unsubscribe from promotional emails using the unsubscribe instructions provided in the message or by contacting us.

Unsubscribe requests will be processed within the time required by law.

Unsubscribing from promotional communications will not necessarily prevent essential transactional or administrative messages.

10.3 Email Privacy

We do not sell email subscriber lists.

Authorized service providers may process subscriber information to distribute communications and manage subscriptions under appropriate contractual and privacy safeguards.

11. Cookies and Website Analytics

Our websites may use cookies and similar technologies to support essential website functions, improve usability, maintain shopping carts, understand website traffic, and support permitted communications or analytics activities.

Cookies may include:

Essential Cookies: Support basic website operations, security, shopping carts, and checkout functions.

Preference Cookies: Remember selected website settings and user preferences.

Analytics Cookies: Help us understand website traffic, navigation, and service performance.

Marketing Cookies: May support permitted advertising, campaign measurement, or communication activities when such technologies are enabled.

Users may manage cookies through browser settings and any available website consent controls.

Where applicable law requires consent before using nonessential cookies or similar technologies, we will seek that consent.

Disabling certain cookies may affect website functionality.

Additional information is available in our Privacy Policy and any applicable cookie notice.

12. Third-Party Platforms and Payment Processors

Our Services may use third-party platforms to support online sales, donation processing, conference registration, communications, accounting, website hosting, and other administrative functions.

These may include, where actually deployed:

- Shopify for online commerce.
- PayPal and other authorized payment processors.
- Third-party donation processing services.
- Event registration and scheduling platforms.
- Email marketing and newsletter providers.
- Website hosting, analytics, and security providers.

Third-party providers may collect and process information necessary to perform their services.

Their activities may be governed by separate terms and privacy policies.

STEAM ONWARD is responsible for its own obligations concerning the selection and use of service providers, including obligations imposed by applicable privacy and consumer protection laws.

We do not guarantee the uninterrupted availability of third-party platforms.

13. Privacy, Data Collection, and Information Use

STEAM ONWARD may collect personal information reasonably necessary to administer its Services.

Information may include names, mailing addresses, email addresses, telephone numbers, transaction details, donation histories, event registration information, and other information voluntarily submitted by users.

Information may be used to:

- Fulfill purchases and registrations.
- Process donations and provide acknowledgments.
- Administer educational and community programs.
- Respond to inquiries.
- Maintain accurate organizational records.
- Provide requested communications.
- Meet legal, financial, and regulatory obligations.
- Detect fraud and protect website security.

Our separate Privacy Policy provides additional information concerning data collection, processing, retention, disclosure, and applicable individual rights.

Where applicable, individuals may request access to, correction of, or deletion of personal information, subject to legal requirements and permitted exceptions.

14. Data Security and Breach Response

STEAM ONWARD is committed to protecting personal information through reasonable administrative, technical, and organizational safeguards appropriate to the nature of the information and our operations.

Such safeguards may include access restrictions, secure communications, account authentication, service provider oversight, and appropriate record-handling procedures.

Payment information submitted through authorized payment processors is handled according to the relevant payment provider's systems and applicable security obligations.

No internet transmission or electronic storage system can be guaranteed to be completely secure.

If STEAM ONWARD becomes aware of a security incident involving personal information, it will investigate and take appropriate action, including notification to affected individuals and authorities when required by applicable law.

Users are encouraged to protect their account credentials and notify us promptly of suspected unauthorized activity.

15. Intellectual Property and Educational Content

Unless otherwise indicated, website content, organizational publications, educational materials, graphics, photographs, logos, videos, and original written materials are owned by STEAM ONWARD, licensed to it, or used with appropriate authorization.

The names and logos of STEAM ONWARD, UCFA, Ujamaa Seeds, and associated programs may not be used in a manner that falsely suggests organizational endorsement or affiliation.

Users may access publicly available educational content for lawful personal and noncommercial educational purposes, subject to applicable copyright law and any stated licensing conditions.

Reproduction, distribution, resale, or commercial use of protected content may require prior written permission.

Nothing in these Terms restricts lawful fair use or other rights granted by copyright law.

16. Community Submissions, Testimonials, and Seed Stories

Users may submit testimonials, agricultural experiences, photographs, seed histories, cultural narratives, or other materials.

By submitting content, users represent that they have the right to provide it and that the submission does not knowingly violate the rights of others.

Submission alone does not transfer copyright ownership to STEAM ONWARD.

Any permission to publish, reproduce, edit, distribute, or otherwise use submitted content will be governed by the authorization obtained for that submission.

STEAM ONWARD recognizes the cultural importance of community knowledge, oral histories, traditional agricultural practices, and seed heritage.

We seek to obtain appropriate permission and attribution when documenting or publishing community-contributed cultural materials.

17. External Links and Resources

Our websites may contain links to external websites, educational institutions, agricultural organizations, partner programs, and other resources.

These links are provided for convenience and informational purposes.

STEAM ONWARD does not necessarily endorse every statement, product, or practice appearing on external websites.

Users should review the terms and privacy policies of external services.

18. Disclaimer of Warranties

Our websites and general educational content are provided on an "as available" basis.

To the extent permitted by law, STEAM ONWARD disclaims warranties concerning uninterrupted website availability, freedom from technical errors, or the suitability of general educational information for every individual circumstance.

Specific product warranties, representations, and consumer rights remain governed by applicable law and any express commitments made at the time of purchase.

Nothing in this section excludes warranties or protections that cannot lawfully be disclaimed.

19. Limitation of Liability

To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, STEAM ONWARD will not be responsible for indirect, incidental, special, or consequential damages arising from website interruptions, ordinary technical errors, or reliance on general informational content, except where liability cannot lawfully be limited.

This provision does not exclude liability for fraud, willful misconduct, gross negligence where such exclusion is prohibited, or other liability that cannot legally be waived.

Nothing in these Terms restricts legally protected consumer rights or remedies.

20. Accessibility and Equal Opportunity

STEAM ONWARD seeks to make its programs, communications, and digital resources accessible to diverse communities.

We are committed to providing equitable opportunities for participation consistent with applicable nondiscrimination and accessibility laws.

Individuals requesting reasonable accommodations or alternative formats may contact [Insert Accessibility Contact Email].

We will review accommodation requests in accordance with applicable law and program circumstances.

21. Changes to Programs, Services, and Terms

STEAM ONWARD may update these Terms to reflect changes in organizational operations, applicable laws, technology, or service offerings.

Updated Terms will be posted on our website with a revised effective date.

When legally required, we will provide additional notice or obtain consent before implementing material changes.

Changes will not retroactively alter completed transactions or existing contractual rights without a lawful basis.

Continued use of Services after revised Terms take effect may constitute acceptance where permitted by law.

22. Governing Law and Dispute Resolution

These Terms are governed by the laws of the State of Maryland, United States, except where applicable law requires otherwise.

Users are encouraged to contact STEAM ONWARD first to seek an informal resolution of concerns involving purchases, donations, registrations, or website services.

Nothing in these Terms prevents users from exercising rights or pursuing remedies available under applicable consumer protection, charitable solicitation, privacy, or other laws.

Any legal proceeding will be subject to applicable jurisdiction and venue requirements.

23. Severability and Entire Agreement

If any provision of these Terms is found unlawful or unenforceable, the remaining provisions will continue in effect to the extent permitted by law.

These Terms, together with applicable policies and any specific written agreements governing particular transactions or programs, constitute the relevant agreement between the user and STEAM ONWARD concerning the Services.

If an event-specific agreement, product-specific policy, or separately executed contract conflicts with these Terms, the more specific agreement will govern the applicable matter, subject to law.

24. Contact Information

For questions concerning these Terms and Conditions, please contact:

STEAM ONWARD, Inc.
Ujamaa Cooperative Farming Alliance (UCFA)
Ujamaa Seeds

Website: https://steamonward.org
Email: steamonward.org@gmail.com
Mailing Address: 1908 Catherine Fran Drive,
Accokeek, MD 20607
Telephone: 240-515-8558

For privacy-related inquiries: steamonward.org@gmail.com

For order-related inquiries: steamonward.org@gmail.com

For donation-related inquiries: steamonward.org@gmail.com

25. Acknowledgment of Terms

By using our websites, making a donation, purchasing merchandise, registering for an event, subscribing to communications, or participating in an applicable program, you acknowledge that you have had an opportunity to review these Terms and Conditions.

Where affirmative agreement is required, you will be asked to provide it through the applicable registration, transaction, or consent process.

Thank you for supporting STEAM ONWARD, Inc., the Ujamaa Cooperative Farming Alliance, and Ujamaa Seeds. Together, we advance seed sovereignty, preserve agricultural biodiversity, celebrate cultural heritage, and strengthen communities through education and ethical seed stewardship.

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