

2024 Field Trip Guidelines



Farm Location: 608 Berry Farm Road, Staunton, Virginia 24401

Day-of contact: Nichole Barrows, Director of Education, (757) 270-6803

Overview: At Project GROWS, we know that kids who garden eat more veggies. Field trips to the 10-acre Project GROWS farm immerse students in a hands-on, experiential, outdoor learning environment where they can discover how and where vegetables are grown, make connections between the classroom and the farm, participate in age-appropriate farm tasks with their classmates, and explore healthy eating through tasting and cooking. Field trips involve exploration of the education space, production beds, sensory garden, greenhouse, high tunnels, and pollinator garden.

Buses: Buses should park at our new parking lot located on the far side of the farm, labeled "Bus Entrance". Please note that the entrance to the new lot is located at a bend in Berry Farm Road, so please slow down as you approach the farm. Chaperones and teachers should park at our Main Entrance by the building.



Payment: After receiving your Field Trip Request Form, your coordinator will send you a quote for the cost of your trip. The minimum group charge is \$100. After your trip has been scheduled, you will be emailed an invoice. Payment is due at the time of the field trip and can be paid in cash or check. Checks should be made out to Project GROWS and can be delivered in person or mailed to PO Box 781, Staunton, VA 24402. Please let us know if you need financial assistance.

Packing List: ***Closed-toed shoes are required for all students.*** As field trips take place entirely outdoors, remind students and chaperones to dress appropriately. We also recommend the following:

- Individual water bottles
- Sun hat
- Layered clothing, for sun or wind protection, depending on weather
- Sunscreen

Weather: In the event of light rain, our staff is fully prepared and excited to lead field trips for groups that are not afraid to get a little wet! Thanks to our new building, Project GROWS now has a large covered porch where we can continue our learning during rain if needed.

- ***In the event that a group is already on the farm and lightning is spotted,*** we will immediately move students to the covered porch and building for safety.
- ***If heavy rain or thunderstorms are forecasted the day before the trip,*** your teacher will receive an email from a Project GROWS staff member the night prior to the field trip, with a cell phone number to contact on the morning of the trip if the group wishes to cancel.
- ***If the trip must be canceled due to weather,*** a PG staff member will follow-up immediately via email to reschedule the trip. If you do not want to reschedule, a refund will be issued.

First Aid: As our programs take place outdoors, there is a risk to participants of tick, mosquito, and other insect bites along with bee, wasp, and other insect stings. We will take precautions to manage these risks, but cannot guarantee an insect-free visit. Long sleeves and long pants tucked into socks can help manage these risks. If you wish for participants to use bug spray, please apply it prior to your arrival. **Please check participants for ticks at the end of each day and communicate any possible insect allergies to staff members.** We will provide first aid for insect bites and stings and will call 911 in the case of allergic reactions.

Farm Rules:

- ♥ Walk, don't run!
- ♥ Stay on paths
- ♥ Ask before using a tool or handling any crop or animal
- ♥ Respect each other, the plants, insects, and animals at the farm

Group Size: Our maximum group size per field trip is approximately 40 students. If you'd like to bring a group larger than 40 students, please request *two separate field trip dates on the request form*. Occasionally, we can accommodate two separate field trips on the same day.

Station Rotations: After our Welcome Circle, large field trip groups are **divided into small groups** of students to increase the amount of attention our staff are able to give to students. We will rotate groups through stations so that students get to experience *all* of the stations. You will receive information about the number of groups in your trip confirmation email. When you arrive, please plan to split your class(es) into the requested number of groups.

Chaperones: We require a minimum of 1 adult per 10 students. There is no limit to the number of chaperones that can attend.