



Field Trip Guidelines

All teachers must review these guidelines prior to your visit.

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.

Cost: Starting in 2023, we will begin charging fees for field trips to reflect the cost of our staff time to facilitate high-quality outdoor education. Please see the chart below to determine the cost of your trip. The minimum group charge is \$100. Teachers, chaperones, and aides are free. Payments can be made by check or cash. Please make checks out to Project GROWS, PO Box 781, Staunton, VA 24402. Let us know if you need us to email an invoice. Payment is due the day of the field trip.

Cost Per Field Trip (Prek-12th)	
Small Group Size (25 students or fewer)	\$100
Medium Group Size (26-59 students)	\$150
Large Group Size (60-79 students)	\$175
Extra Large Group Size (80-100 students)	\$200

Parking: Please 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.

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! And thanks to our new building, Project GROWS now has a large covered porch where we can continue our learning if needed.

However, if heavy rain or thunderstorms are forecasted, 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 you do decide to cancel the trip, a PG staff member will follow-up immediately via email to reschedule the trip. You will not lose your payment if your trip is cancelled because of weather! If you do not want to reschedule, a refund will be issued.

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.

Farm Rules:

- ♥ Walk when in the garden
- ♥ 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: The maximum number of students per individual field trip is 60 students, but 40 is our ideal group size. If you'd like to bring a group larger than 60 students, please request two separate field trip dates on the request form.

Special trip information for groups of 40 or more: When you arrive, please plan to split your class(es) into equal-sized groups so that we can rotate groups through stations. You will receive information about the number of groups in your trip confirmation email.

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

Farm Location: 608 Berry Farm Road, Staunton, Virginia 24401. Directions: <http://www.projectgrows.org/contact-us/>

Day-of Contact: Nichole Barrows, Director of Education, 757-270-6803