

# Wright-Locke Farm's Youth Education Program and Farm Visit Preparation Guide

## WELCOME TO THE FARM!

We look forward to your adventure here at Wright-Locke Farm. In order to ensure a safe, informative, and fun experience, we request that program participants and visitors prepare for their time at the farm by reading this document. Adults, teachers, or chaperones should share relevant information with their children or students and their families prior to their program or visit. **If you have any questions, please contact Erika Gorgenyi, Education Director, via email (FarmEd@wlfarm.org).**

## WHAT TO WEAR & BRING TO THE FARM

Because our programs are held entirely outdoors, participants should dress in weather-appropriate clothing that can get dirty. Please note that while school visits may be cancelled or rescheduled due to inclement weather, the farm's registration-based programs will NOT be cancelled or rescheduled. **We HIGHLY recommend checking the weather forecast the morning of a program session or visit to ensure participants are appropriately dressed.** We also suggest bringing rain boots and a raincoat on days when rain is likely- even if it's not actually raining when you leave the house.

*Items participants should wear or bring include:*

- **FOOTWEAR:** sneakers, hiking boots, or rain boots, when appropriate, are suggested; sport sandals and Crocs are okay in the summer, but no flip-flops or fancy sandals, please!
- **CLOTHING:** wearing layers is suggested, especially during spring and fall seasons.
- **HEADWEAR:** a warm cap for cool days or a baseball cap / brimmed hat for warm sunny days is suggested. Sunglasses are also recommended.
- **SUNSCREEN:** we request that sunscreen be applied prior to arriving at the farm; program participants or visitors may bring extra sunscreen to programs or visits- especially those held during the summer season- in case reapplication is necessary.
- **MEDICATIONS:** any epi-pens, inhalers, or other prescribed medication should be directly given to the Education Director upon arrival at the farm for a visit or program; items will be returned to caretakers at the end of the visit or last program session unless requested otherwise. Any known allergies, especially food allergies, should also be relayed to the Education Director before the start of a program or farm visit that involves cooking.
- **SNACK:** program participants or visitors may be encouraged to bring a snack from home. Please contact the Education Director if you are unsure if your child or group should bring a snack. **We request that all participants refrain from bringing any peanut products.**

## STAYING SAFE AND HEALTHY

We realize things can get a bit dirty during our programs, which is a big part of the fun we have here. But we also realize there is a need for cleanliness and safety from potential hazards.

- Program participants and visitors are instructed to wash their hands with soap and water before the start of a cooking activity, after farm animal chores or visitation, or following a particularly messy activity.
- We ask that participants and visitors DO NOT enter animal pens unless they are given permission to do so by a WLF employee OR they are acting as an animal care volunteer.
- During the spring, summer, and fall seasons, we allow farm animals to graze in pastures by using mobile electrified fencing (white netted fencing, about 3 feet high). Please be aware

that while the shock sent through the fencing is not fatal, **participants should NOT touch the fence unless it has been turned off by farm staff. The two grounded metal polls that allow the shockwave to flow throughout the fence conduct an extremely powerful shock and MUST NOT BE TOUCHED when the fence is turned on!** If a program or visit involves direct contact with animals kept in electrified fencing, farm staff will address the group and turn the fence off prior to participants or visitors approaching the area.

- We enjoy the many wildlife sightings we experience on the farm and in the abutting conservation areas, but we always ask that visitors use extreme caution when observing wildlife. Any animal that is suspicious in terms of behavior or appearance should be avoided and reported to farm staff or town police immediately.
- Poison ivy, sumac, and oak are found on the farm and in the Locke and Whipple Hill Conservation Areas adjacent to the property. We address these plants with participants and visitors if program activities will involve areas known to have these plants; we also avoid coming into direct contact with them. For specific concerns, contact the Education Director.
- In the spring, summer, and fall, tick checks should be made after programs or visits; staff will perform tick checks on kids during programs if we have entered areas known to have ticks.

### **PARKING & MEETING PLACE**

Due to heavy foot traffic and limited space in our main driveway at 78 Ridge Street, we ask that visiting groups or participant caretakers park in either of the following alternative locations, circled in yellow, and walk participants to our meeting place, the east side of the 1827 Barn, circled in red. Please be sure to drive **SLOWLY** while on the property to ensure the safety of other visitors!

- **BEST PLACE TO PARK: 82 Ridge Street** (signs on road point to this lot). This space will be under construction until Fall 2020.
- **ALSO AVAILABLE:** lower parking lot off Ridge Street near our raspberry fields (5 - 6 spaces)
- **IF NEEDED:** School buses should drop off and pick up students at the lower lot and may park across the street at the Mullen Playfield parking lot.

