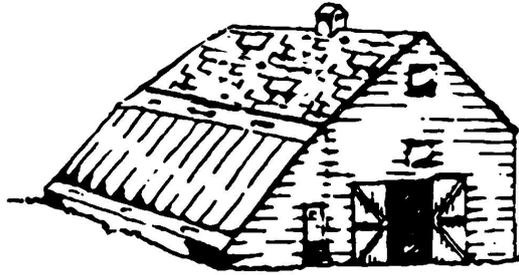


2020-2021 Program Policies



The Natick Community Organic Farm

Keeping NCOF and our community educated safe.

Welcome to Natick Farm's Programs!

We are so glad to have you and yours join us. Please take note of the following to help us ensure a fun, safe, and memorable program of agricultural adventure.

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Covid-19: Requirements and Policies

Masks & Distancing

Wearing masks inside is a Natick Town regulation. Therefore, program participants at NCOF must be wearing a mask while indoors. While outdoors, staff and program participants do not need to wear masks. We acknowledge the 3-6ft distancing policy.

* *Note:* Parents must ensure their child is sent with two masks for all programming.

Illness During Programming

If by chance there is a program participant who starts to become ill during programming, we have designated a quarantine space for them to reside until they are picked up.

If a child is showing symptoms, it is up to the parent to notify Audrey@natickfarm.org and publicprograms@natickfarm.org right away and keep the child home. The child must get a Covid test and be cleared to return to the programs.

Parent Policies

Parents are responsible for checking their child's temperature before and after programming for any signs of illness, especially related to Covid-19. There must also be an emergency contact that can pick the child up at any time during programming if they become ill or injured.

Steps to follow to ensure safe programming:

- There is no traveling out of state for program participants or their contacts allowed during programming. To keep up to date on safe states, [click here](#).
- Must take temperature of each child attending camp before arriving on the property.
- Immediately email AND call with notice of symptoms.
 - Publicprograms@natickfarm.org OR Audrey@natickfarm.org
 - 508.655.2204
- If the child's temperature is normal there is no need to notify NCOF.

Covid-19: Cleaning Protocols

Cleaning is important to the overall health of the farm and we have implemented cleaning policies for all staff, volunteers, and educators to follow to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all who come to the property.

Educators are responsible for cleaning the spaces, tools, and materials they use during their programming.

Cleaning Products

Hand sanitizer is available for each program group, as well as in community spaces.

Educators will have a cleaning kit to use appropriately.

Bleach, soap, and water mixtures will be prepared for safe cleaning of all farm tools, shared surfaces, and materials.

Program Policies

Program Ratios

Each program has a max of twelve spots. Each program can have up to two teachers. Programs for ages 3-5 will always have two teachers assigned.

Refund Policy

Natick Community Organic Farm does not offer refunds after the stated date on the website programs page. If there is a Covid-19 related incident or we must cancel programs, we will issue refunds upon request at that time. We do not offer partial refunds or credits. We do not offer refunds due to behavior issues. Pro-rating refunds will be applied if registering for a program after the program start date.

Weather Policy

Natick Community Farm does not cancel due to weather. As a working farm, we do not shut down or stop working due to rain, snow, or otherwise. We expect program participants to arrive with weather appropriate clothes or they will be sent home.

If there is thunder and lightening, we have designated shelters on the property to take shelter. In most cases, we will cancel if thunder is forecast and call for children to be picked up if thunder lasts more than 10 minutes during programming.

Clothing Policy

Your child must wear appropriate clothes for the season. Everyone must always wear closed-toed-shoes and crew socks. If it looks like rain, they must bring a hat and raincoat. No umbrellas. T-shirts and jeans are best and we recommend no cotton in the winter as it does not dry well. Your child may not participate in Farm activities if they are not wearing appropriate clothing and we will ask for you to take your child home if their clothes are not appropriate.

Bathroom Policy

Program participants are expected to be fully potty trained. Educators can assist with bathroom but are not required to change diapers or accidents.

Late Policy

Please be on time when dropping off and picking up your child. It is important for start and end times to run smoothly on our end, as educators have other programs to teach and staff are expected to leave by 4-4:30pm for later programs. A late fee of \$1 per minute will be charged after 5 minutes of being late.

General Policies

- **Send your child with a small healthy snack and re-usable water bottle for programs running 2+ hours. A water bottle is recommend for all programs as farm work is tiresome, especially in the hotter months.**
- **Prior to coming to the farm in hotter months, put sun-screen on your child. If you want your child to use bug repellent at any time of the year, please apply it before coming to the Farm. If we think your child has been exposed to poison ivy, we will wash their hands with Tecnu soap which removes poison ivy oils. If your child gets a scrape we will wash the cut with soap and water and apply a bandaid. We do not apply any antibiotic ointment, sun screen, or bug spray at the Farm.**
- **We eat! We take allergies and food safety seriously while giving kids positive experiences eating tasty vegetables, fruits, and other snacks.**
- **For updates, cancellations, and additional program information we will email program groups. Please make sure to check the day/week of your program!**
- **The Farm often takes pictures to use in its marketing materials. If you would prefer not to have your child's picture taken, please let us know at Info@natickfarm.org**
- **No electronics on the farm. This includes cameras.**

Behavioral Guidelines at NCOF

On the Farm there are a lot of ways to be. Our guests are invited to be happy, be curious, be excited, be engaged, and to be respectful. The *Natick Community Organic Farm* is a working farm; everything you see, touch, and taste was grown or cared for by our farmers. We want you to be part of that process as our guest, something you can do by your actions while on the Farm.

We ask that all visitors to the Farm help us care for our animals by not running or yelling, so as not to scare them. We ask that guests be careful where they walk and what they touch as to not damage our crops. For program participants, the expectations are broadened to include respecting the other members of our community. Appropriate behavior is encouraged at all times, inappropriate behavior will be corrected, and unacceptable behavior will be dealt with in a linear fashion.

- 1) At the first instance of unacceptable behavior, NCOF staff will discuss it with the child's caregiver. The Program Manager will email a follow up.**
- 2) The second instance will result in the child being asked to leave for the day. The program manager will also follow up.**
- 3) On the third event the child will be uninvited from participating in future Farm programming. This communication will come from the Program manager.**

Without getting too pedantic, unacceptable behaviors include: cruelty to the animals, violence towards others, gross disrespect, swearing and foul language, not listening to their educators, and willful destruction of crops, structures, or produce. No refunds will be issued as a consequence of poor behavior.

Please note that the three strike rule is subjective and will scale up if the first instance of behavior is severe.

Behavioral Meeting

The program manager and educators will call a behavioral meeting at either the second or third strike, depending on the severity of the behavior. This meeting will determine if the child can return to the program.

Gearing Up on The Farm

We ask that you prepare your child for all weather. Your child may not participate in Farm activities if they are not wearing appropriate clothing and we will ask for you to take your child home if their clothes are not appropriate.

*** Places to find Good Gear: ***

- REI www.REI.com
- The Outdoor Store <http://www.natickoutdoor.com/>
- Sierra Trading Post <http://www.sierratradingpost.com/>
- Biddle and Bop www.biddleandbop.com/
- Campmor <http://www.campmor.com/>
- LL Bean <http://www.llbean.com/>

Thoughts on Layering for Colder Days:

Layering allows you to modify your body temperature and adapt to changing conditions. Two lighter layers are better than one heavy layer. Layering also allows you to adjust clothing to match activity level.

Good Fiber Choices for Wet and Cold Weather:

The best fibers to dress your child in for wet and cold weather are polypropylene, fleece, silk, and wool. Please no cotton! When cotton gets wet, it has no warming ability and keeps you cold. The best idea is to wear water-resistant clothing that does not absorb moisture easily. Fabrics such as polypropylene, fleece, silk, and wool are excellent. In warm weather, long-sleeve cotton T-shirts and pants are fine.

Getting Dirty:

You should expect your child to get dirty! Please do not send them in anything you do not want dirty.

Labels:

All of your child's clothes should be labeled, including extra clothes in backpacks, mittens, water bottles, and boots.

Cost:

Buying gear new can be very expensive. We advise all families to first search the local children's resale store (Savers, Fancy Pants in Chestnut Hill and Growing Up in Belmont). [Zulily](#) and [Gilt](#) are online 'deal of the day' sites and allow you to sign up for emails when certain brands go on sale (Bogs, Smartwool, Rugged Bear, Nui Organics, Obermeyer, and Spyder have all been available).

Rain and Snow Gear:

A good quality rain jacket is very important. We have found that a proper rain jacket is one that has a good hood, allows for movement and isn't too heavy. Vinyl raincoats, character, or novelty rain coats and anything not waterproof aren't good for heavy downpours or playing in the rain.

Puddle pants are very popular with families; teachers love them too! They are much thicker than the average rain pant. Rain pants are great for protecting children from water from the sky, while puddle pants can take mud and water from all directions.

We recommend stocking up on 'stretchy gloves' when you find them on sale. These are very helpful during the colder months and we highly recommend on wearing a pair under waterproof gloves or mittens.

Boots:

Insulated boots are what we recommend, so they may cause some sweaty feet the first couple weeks of school and the last month or so, but with simply adjusting sock thickness-thin socks in warmer weather, wool socks in winter- they should work fine. They are a rain boot and snow boot in one. Make sure to buy the insulated boots rated for -30.