



2022 Summer Program Information

Welcome children and families to our Summer Programs! This Summer Program Information guide has all the info that your family needs for a safe and fun adventure at the farm.

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SECTION 1: PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Dates & Times

June 13-August 19			
Monday-Thursday**	**All programs meet T-F the weeks of June 21 and July 5	**Jr. Working and Working Farmers: morning session M-F	
Morning or Afternoon	Ages 3-7 9:00 am – 12:00 pm 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Ages 8-15 8:30 am – 12:00 pm 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Early Drop Off / Extended Day 8:30 am – 9:00 am 4:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Member Benefits

Current NCOF Members at the Crofter level (\$125) and above automatically save 20% on summer programs and get access to early registration on January 14.

Summer scholarships

50% of program fees up to \$150 per calendar year per child. Contact the Asst. Dir. of Education for info.

Refund Policy

- By June 1, refund requests must be submitted to communityprograms@natickfarm.org. No refunds will be granted after June 1 for cancellations or changes.
- Prior to June 1, refunds, cancellations, and changes to program registrations can be made at no cost within 5 business days of registration. After 5 business days, changes will be subject to a \$25 fee. We do not pro-rate summer program fees or offer credits.

Communications

Farm > Parents

- Email: updates, cancellations, and additional program information
- Telephone: last minute program changes or concerns

Parents > Farm Assistant Director of Education

- Email: communityprograms@natickfarm.org
- Telephone: 508-655-2204

Follow & Join

- Follow us on Facebook and Instagram
- Join our farm email newsletter at www.natickfarm.org/donate/get-the-e-newsletter

Program Information Timeline

- Your program registration email must allow emails from NCOF. Please add us to your email Contacts.
- Upon registration, look for your Invoice and a Welcome message in your email inbox
- May 25: Email reminder of the June 1 program refund deadline
- Friday prior to following week's programs: informational email on parking, meeting spots, etc.

Ages

Children must turn the correct program age on or by the scheduled program week.

Bathroom Policy

Children are expected to be fully potty-trained. Farm educators can assist with toileting but are not required to change diapers.

Readying Your Child for Programs

Our farm is a community farm open to the public for free from dawn to dusk, 7 days a week. We encourage all families to visit, especially those with children who are young and/or new to our programs. Family visits prior to scheduled programs can ease program day jitters.

Aides

Parents are not allowed to participate in programs. All programs are drop-off. If your child needs to bring an aide (who is not the parent), please contact us.



Farm Educator to Child Ratios

- 1:6 -- Summer Sprouts, Forest Explorers, Woodland Wanderers, Budding Farmers, Young Farmers, Growing Farmers
- 1:7 -- Jr. Working & Working Farmers

Farm Educator Training

Summer farm educators are reference and background checked before hired. Educator preparation includes CPR/First Aid, Covid-19, and other health and safety trainings.

Photos

The Farm often takes pictures to use in its marketing materials. If you would prefer not to have your child's picture taken, email your request with the child and program name to info@natickfarm.org.

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 cold.
- In high heat, staff will instruct youth to hydrate. Staff will also promote lower activity, sheltering in the shade, and hose spray downs.

SECTION II: GETTING READY!

Directions

- GPS: Memorial Elementary School, 107 Eliot Street, Natick
- Mail: 117 Eliot Street, Natick, 01760

Parking

- For drop off and pick up, park at the adjacent Memorial School parking lot and walk your child over to the farm (+/- 4 mins.).
- If you are unable to make this walk, you may park in our lot.
- The farm limits access to our driveway and parking lot so that kids, farmers, and visitors are able to navigate the farm in a pedestrian-friendly way.

Meeting Spots

Programs	Ages	Times	Days	Meeting Spots
Forest Explorers	3-5	9-12	M-Th	Woods Path
Summer Sprouts	3-5	9-12	M-Th	Sprouts Gate
Budding Farmers	4-5	9-12 1-4	M-Th	Gazebo
Woodland Wanderers	4-7	1-4	M-Th	Woods Path

Young Farmers	6-7	9-12 1-4	M-Th	Apple Tree
Growing Farmers	8-9	8:30-12 1-4:30	M-Th	Big Tent
Jr. Working Farmers	10-11	8:30-12 1-4:30	M-F M-Th	Big Tent
Working Farmers	12-15	8:30-12 1-4:30	M-F M-Th	Sugar Shack
Early Drop Off/Extended Day	3-7	8:30-9 4-4:30	M-Th	TBD

Late Pick Up Fees

A late pick up fee of \$1 per minute will be charged after a 5 minute grace period.

Health

Sunscreen/Bug Spray/First Aid

- Sunscreen & Bug Spray: Parents supply and apply both as needed (bug spray is a pesticide and must be applied off the farm). Staff may not reapply sunscreen or bug spray on children.
- First Aid: Staff will wash scrapes and cuts with soap and water only, and apply a Band-Aid. We do not apply antibiotic creams, antiseptic wash, etc.
- Poison Ivy: If your child has been exposed to poison ivy, we will wash with Tecnu soap.
- EpiPens & allergies: Email communityprograms@natickfarm.org with EpiPen and other critical allergy info. See last page to fill out an EpiPen permission form. Scan/email or mail back to us.

Livestock

- Children enter pastures only under the guidance of a trained farm educator.
- Children's programs do not enter pastures with the cows or adult, male livestock.

Covid-19

- We follow the Natick Board of Health guidelines. Guidelines are subject to change.
- Masks
 - Outdoors: no mask
 - Indoors: Staff and children must wear masks indoors. Parents must pack two (2) masks for their child.
- Distancing: We acknowledge the 3-6 ft. distancing recommendation.
- Hand washing and sanitizer
 - A hand washing station and hand sanitizer is available for all groups.
- Parent Responsibilities
 - Check your child daily for any signs of illness related to Covid-19. If a child is showing symptoms, the parent must notify communityprograms@natickfarm.org. The child must receive a negative Covid-19 test before returning to programs.

Water & Snacks

- Water Bottle: reusable
- Snacks: Yes! We encourage healthy snacks in reusable containers.
- Due to the prevalence of nut allergies, no nut snacks please.
- We often sample farm produce. Please alert us to your child's allergies.

Electronics

No electronics use is permitted by children on the farm, including cameras and cell phones.

Clothing Requirements

Our clothing requirements are simple but important to keeping children's skin protected, minimizing tripping, and staying dry on rainy days. And, nothing beats mucking out the chicken coop or exploring a stream with waterproof boots! Remember: *"There's no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothes."*

Adjusting for Age & Weather

- While some of these guidelines are geared to younger children, parents of older youth should adapt this information accordingly.
- Summer New England weather can be fickle, so be sure that your child has the right gear for the (changing) weather.

Clothing Layers

- 1st layer: T-shirts. For woodland programs, long sleeves and pants are recommended to protect skin.
- 2nd layer: sweatshirt for cooler days
- 3rd layer: waterproof rain jacket for rainy days (rain pants optional)

Footwear

- Wear: Sturdy, closed toe shoes (sneakers or boots). No sandals or Crocs allowed.
- Bring: Rain boots (or water shoes) for stream play and/or farm work

Spare Clothes

- Mandatory for Summer Sprouts, Forest Explorers, Woodland Wanderers, Budding/Young/Growing Farmers
- Pack a full change of clothes (shirt, pants, socks, underwear) in your child's backpack.

Getting Dirty & Labels

- Send your child with clothing and footwear that CAN and WILL get dirty.
- Label all clothes, boots, water bottles, and backpacks.

Lost & Found

A Lost & Found bin is located at the farm and is emptied periodically.

Behavioral Guidelines

We invite our guests to be happy, curious, engaged, and respectful when visiting the farm. NCOF is a working farm and we want you to be part of the process. Appropriate behavior is encouraged at all times. We ask that all visitors help us care for the farm and animals by respecting the:

Animals	Farm and Environment	Group
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiet voices • Walking feet • Gentle hands • Respect the animal's home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move carefully around plants and fields • Clean up your space at the end of an activity • Respect the farmers' work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to educators and peers • Show kindness towards others • Share with others

Unacceptable behavior can put your child, the other children, and the animals at risk. Unacceptable behavior will be addressed and handled in a linear fashion.

Unacceptable behaviors include cruelty to the animals, violence towards others, gross disrespect, bullying, swearing and foul language, blatant disregard towards educators, and willful destruction of crops, structures, or produce.

- At the first instance of unacceptable behavior, NCOF staff will discuss it with the child's caregiver. The Assistant Director of Education will email a follow up.
- The second instance will result in the child being asked to leave for the day. The Assistant Director of Education will also follow up in an email.
- If there is a third instance, the child will be uninvited from participating in future Farm programming. This communication will come from the Assistant Director of Education.
- Note: The Assistant Director of Education and educators will call a behavioral meeting at either the second or third instance, depending on the severity of the behavior. This meeting will determine if the child can return to the program.

No refunds will be issued if a child is asked to leave a program due to unacceptable behavior.

Note that the three step rule is subjective and will scale up if the first instance of behavior is severe.

NCOF Allergy Policy

Parents' Responsibilities

- Parents must notify NCOF of any risk of anaphylaxis or an anaphylactic reaction to any substance (food, insect bites, or drugs) at time of registration.
- Children must bring appropriate EpiPen kit and signed consent (see below) from a parent/guardian to allow for the injection to be given immediately in case of an emergency.
- Children and/or the farm educators will have the EpiPen with them at all times.

NCOF's Responsibilities

- NCOF will inform all parents that there is a child with severe allergies to nuts and peanuts participating in the program and ask not to bring in any snacks containing nuts or peanuts.
- Children will not share food.
- Staff will be educated regarding life threatening allergies. Staff will familiarize itself every session with children that have life threatening allergies and any medication (EpiPen, Benadryl) that children will bring to the program.
- Emergency procedures are put in place for life threatening allergies.
- NCOF cannot guarantee a nut-free environment.

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NCOF Allergy Policy - EpiPen Consent Form

Student's Name: _____ Program Name _____
Session Dates & Times _____

As the parent or guardian of the above student, I understand NCOF's guidelines and realize that the Farm cannot guarantee a nut-free environment. I give permission to NCOF staff to administer an EpiPen injection to the above student in the event of anaphylaxis or an anaphylactic reaction requiring such an injection.

Parent/Guardian's name (print): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____