



2022 Summer Program Information

Revised May 18, 2022 – please take another look if you registered earlier this spring.

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SECTION 1: PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Dates & Times

- Our summer season runs June 13 – August 19.
- **Programs meet either morning *or* afternoon, there are no full-day options this summer.**
- **Please consult your registration for the specific dates + times of your program- these vary based on age.**
- Days of the week:
 - Programs for 9 and under meet Monday-Thursday only, except during our Holiday weeks (below), when they meet Tuesday-Friday.
 - Programs for 10 and up meet Monday-Friday *ornings*, Monday-Thursday *afternoons*.
 - Holiday weeks: weeks of June 20 and July 4. All programs meet Tuesday-Friday only. No Monday programs on the holidays.

- Time of day:

Age	AM session	PM session
3-7	9 am – 12 pm	1 pm - 4 pm
Extended day for ages 3-7 (optional, additional, register online)	8:30 – 9 am	4 pm – 4:30 pm
8-15	8:30 am – 12 pm	1 pm – 4:30 pm

Refund Policy

- Until/through 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.
- After June 1, we do not grant refunds for cancellations or changes.

Ages

Children must turn the correct program age on or by the scheduled program week, unless an exception has been granted in advance by the Assistant Director.

Bathroom Policy

Children must be fully potty-trained to attend summer programs. Farm educators can assist with toileting and/or changing clothes, but do not 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.

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 communityprograms@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 remind youth to hydrate, and take frequent group breaks. Staff will also plan for lower activity, sheltering in the shade, and hose spray downs.

Communications

Farm to Families. We will use:

- Email- primary mode of contact. **Please ensure communityprograms@natickfarm.org is added to your safe sender/contact list.**
- Telephone- last minute program changes, issues, child illness etc.

Families to Farm. We ask you to use:

- Email- primary mode of contact.
- Telephone- anything related to COVID or health, last minute changes, issues
- Communityprograms@natickfarm.org
- 508-655-2204 option 1

Key times you'll hear from us:

- Upon registration: you'll receive an automated receipt and welcome message (separate emails)
- May 25: Email reminder of the June 1 program refund deadline
- The Thursday or Friday prior to your week's programs: "pre-flight" briefing on parking, meeting spots etc.

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, 2022.

Aides

Parents are not allowed to participate in programs. All summer 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 complete both a background check and a week of on-farm training (or equivalent) prior to programs beginning. This training includes CPR/First Aid (including EpiPen), COVID protocols, hazard awareness, and other health and safety trainings.

Scholarships

Summer Scholarships are available. Please contact the Assistant Director via communityprograms@natickfarm.org

SECTION II: GETTING READY!

Parking

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

Health

Sunscreen/Bug Spray/First Aid

- **EpiPens & Allergies: We want to know if your child uses an EpiPen and/or has other severe allergies, please email communityprograms@natickfarm.org.** See last page to fill out an EpiPen permission form. Scan/email or mail back to us.
- Sunscreen & Bug Spray: Parents supply and apply both as needed. **As bug spray is a pesticide, it must be applied off-farm to help us maintain our organic certification.** Staff do not reapply sunscreen on children, but we can help talk kids through applying it to themselves.
- First Aid: Staff will wash scrapes and cuts with soap and water only, and apply a bandage. We do not apply any topical products (e.g. antibiotic or anti-itch creams, antiseptic washes) or offer any oral medications.
- Poison Ivy: If your child has been exposed to poison ivy, we will instruct them on washing the affected with Tecnu soap, which removes the irritating oils of poison ivy.

Livestock

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

COVID guidelines (updated May 25, 2022 and subject to change)

- Guidance and protocols are from the Commonwealth of MA and Town of Natick
- **If your child has a fever for any reason, please keep them home until they have been fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications.**
- **If you have any concerns that your child may be contagious, or have a bug, please keep them home until symptoms subside.**

While masks are not required, any individual who wishes to continue to mask, including those who face higher risk from COVID-19, will be supported in that choice.

If your child is exposed to COVID:

- They may continue to attend programming so long as they remain symptom-free.
- Those who can mask should do so until Day 10*.
- Please test your child at home on Day 2 and Day 5 if at all possible. (Tests are recommended, not required.)

If your child tests positive for COVID:

- They must stay home for 5 full days.
- If your child is able** to wear a mask, they may return to programming on Day 6, so long as:
 - they are asymptomatic and/or symptoms are improving, AND
 - they have been fever-free for 24 hours, AND
 - they wear a mask through Day 10, *although masks can be removed as early as Day 6 so long as the child tests negative.*
- If your child is not able** to wear a mask, they may return to programming, either:
 - on Day 11, if the child is not tested again, OR

- *on Days 6-10, with a negative test*

* Counting Days:

- Day 0, first day of symptoms OR day the positive test was taken, whichever is earlier

** “Able to” = whether the individual is unable to consistently wear a mask due to young age (2 or under) or medical or behavioral condition

Water & Snacks

- Please pack plenty of water and snacks for your child every day- young farmers need a lot of energy! Children will have many opportunities to refill their water bottle throughout the day. We encourage the use of reusable water bottles and snack containers.
- Due to the prevalence of nut allergies, we request no nut snacks please.
- We often sample farm produce. Please alert us to your child’s allergies.
- **We discourage sending sweetened drinks (juice, soda, teas etc.) and heavily-sweetened snacks (e.g. gummy snacks) to the farm, as these attract stinging insects.**

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.”*

Spare Clothes

- Spare clothes are required for kids of all ages.
- **A full change of clothes is required for Summer Sprouts, Forest Explorers, Woodland Wanderers, Budding/Young/Growing Farmers. Please pack a shirt, pants, socks, and underwear in your child’s backpack.**

Getting Dirty: Clothing and footwear CAN and WILL get dirty this summer. Please help your child pick clothes accordingly.

Please label all clothes, boots, water bottles, and backpacks.

Summer New England weather can be fickle, so be sure that your child has the right gear for the (changing) weather.

Clothing	Footwear
<p>Must-Haves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Base layer: t shirt or long sleeve. We recommend long sleeves for woodland programs to protect skin. • Second layer: something for cooler days or mornings- sweatshirt, fleece, long sleeve • Third layer: waterproof jacket for rainy days (rain pants optional) 	<p>Must-Haves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sturdy, closed toe sneakers or boots. Rain boots are OK. <p>No sandals, flip flops, or Crocs. This is a safety requirement. Kids without proper footwear may be sent home.</p>
<p>Nice-to-Haves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sun protection: hat, sunglasses, long-sleeve shirt 	<p>Nice-to-Haves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For younger children, water shoes for stream splashing

While some of these guidelines are geared to younger children, parents of older youth should adapt this information accordingly.

Electronics

Children may not use electronics on the farm during programs, including cell phones and cameras.

Lost & Found

A Lost & Found bin is located at the farm and is emptied frequently. Please ensure your child's items are labeled with their name. We do our best to help your child track down lost items, but of course we can't guarantee we'll find them.

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 by the teaching staff and escalated to the Assistant Director if/as needed.

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 will email a follow up.
- The second instance will result in the child being sent home for the day. The Assistant Director will also follow up in an email.
- If there is a third instance, the child will be unenrolled from subsequent programming this summer. This communication will come from the Assistant Director.
- Note: The Assistant Director and educators may 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 these three steps are a guideline. If the first instance of inappropriate behavior is severe, we may escalate first steps as needed.

Meeting Spots

We will send a map of the farm with these spots in our “pre-flight” email the week before your program.

Program	Ages	Meeting Spot
Forest Explorers	3-5	Woods Path
Summer Sprouts	3-5	Sprouts Gate
Budding Farmers	4-5	Gazebo
Woodland Wanderers	4-7	Woods Path
Young Farmers	6-7	Apple Tree
Growing Farmers	8-9	Big Tent
Jr. Working Farmers	10-11	Big Tent
Working Farmers	12-15	Sugar Shack
Early Drop Off/Extended Day	3-7	TBD

Late Pick Up Fees

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

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: _____