



red gate farm

EDUCATION CENTER

Typical School Overnight Program Schedule

Woodfrogs, salamander and owls, oh my! Visiting groups are asked to organize students into three farm teams for their farm visit. These crews rotate together through the various farm work blocks and farm chores. Don't worry - there is ample time in the schedule where students will be able to socialize, eat and do activities with others outside of their assigned group.

Day 1 - Welcomed by the Farm

- 10:30 Welcome, drop-off gear
- 10:45 Community meeting
- 11:15 Tour the farm & visiting staff meeting
- 12:00 Lunch (brought from home)
- 12:30 Team Building
- 1:00 Farm work: barn, garden, forest
- 3:30 Snack and free time (visiting staff)
- 4:30 Exploring Activity
- 5:15 Afternoon Chores
- 6:15 Dinner and clean-up
- 7:15 Evening activity
- 8:15 Quiet evening routine (visiting staff)

Students go on a short walking tour of the farm with farm staff, while visiting school adults meet with the Program Leader to review student lists, medical needs, and other on-site updates.

Farm teams head out to do various farm work and projects in our three main areas: **Garden:** Farm garden and greenhouse area. **Barn:** animal areas including barns, pastures and paddocks. **Forest:** further afield in the farm forest and sugarbush areas. During their visit, students rotate through all the areas.

Evening programs are a chance for us to gather together for some relaxing fun after a hard day's work. Some examples include story telling, music, variety shows, or just a quiet evening of board games and hanging out together.

The evening winds down and students head back to the Roost to get ready for bed.

Day 2 - Lending a Hand

- 6:45 Good Morning Everyone!
- 7:00 Chores
- 7:30 Breakfast and clean-up
- 8:15 Get Ready for the Day
- 9:00 Community meeting
- 9:15 Farm work: rotate groups
- 10:15 Snack
- 10:30 Return to farm work
- 11:30 Free time (visiting staff)
- 12:00 Lunch and clean-up
- 1:15 Reflections
- 2:15 Electives
- 3:45 Snack and free time (visiting staff)
- 5:15 Chores
- 6:00 Dinner and clean up
- 7:20 Evening activity
- 8:20 Quiet evening routine (visiting staff)

Farm chores include feeding and caring for the animals, sweeping barns, setting tables for the meal, cleaning bathrooms, and other small chores to take care of our community spaces. Each farm team rotates through all the various chores during their visit.

Reflections are done in small groups, each guided by farm staff. A chance for students to talk about their farm experience, share appreciations and think more deeply about what the farm means to them and what they bring to the community.

We believe unstructured time is important for students to balance their day and mental well-being. Free time blocks are scheduled throughout the visit, and students often will play games outside, visit with the animals, hang out and chat or just read a book.

Farm staff love living at the farm, and electives are an opportunity to share some of the things we like to do around the farm outside of work projects. Students sign up for one of a variety of activities. Some examples include water color painting, song writing, bird house building, tree identification, knots and forts, yoga, beekeeping, and knitting.

Day 3 - Stewards of the Land

- 6:45 Good Morning Everyone!
- 7:00 Chores
- 7:30 Breakfast and clean up
- 8:00 Pack for return trip – ready to go (visiting staff)
- 8:45 Farm Work: last rotation
- 10:15 Closing circle
- 10:30 Departure - come back soon!

Elements marked with "visiting staff" are schedule times that visiting school adults provide supervision for students. All other schedule activities are led and supervised by farm staff. Meals are the other time we require assistance from visiting school adults.