



Frequently Asked Questions from Parents

Q: Will my child's school be the only school at the Farm when they visit?

A: In most situations, yes. We have had local schools pen pal with urban schools throughout the school year and then they have the opportunity to meet each other here at the Farm. Occasionally we will host local school field trips as well, which may be at the same time a school is attending the program. In cases such as this, the groups do not see or interact with each other unless permission is obtained from both groups in advance.

Q: How far away is the nearest doctor?

A: The towns of Woodstock and Windsor are quick rides from our location. Both of these towns offer excellent medical facilities and pharmacies.

Q: Where do the children sleep?

A: The students and teachers who are attending the program stay in our modern dormitory. The teacher's and student's rooms are on the same floor so that they have adult supervision/access through the night. There are separate bathrooms and showers for the adults, boys and girls.

Q: Can we call the dorm?

A: It is our experience that phone calls increase homesickness. If you would like to check in, please call the Farm Office and speak with Tatiana 802-484-1236. You can also see what your kids are doing on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Farms-for-City-Kids-315334878930>

Q: Will my child be able to use their cellphone on the Farm?

A: No, we have found that students have a better experience on the Farm without their cellphones.

Q: Who will be working with my child?

A: The staff at Farms For City Kids is comprised of professionals who care deeply about the Foundation's mission. We are a recognized Independent School in the State of Vermont, which means we adhere to all state laws regarding school policies and background checks. Most of our staff has children of their own, so we understand the needs of children away from home. Many of us also volunteer on the local Fire/Rescue departments, so emergency care, if ever needed, is readily available. Each and every member of the staff is committed to helping create the most positive experience that your child can have. If you would like to read about members of the staff, please click visit our Staff page.

Q: Can we visit the Farm?

A: While your child is here attending the program, we ask that you not visit the Farm. However, if you are interested at any other time to visit, we welcome visitors for guided tours that are scheduled in advance. Please contact the Farm Office, 802-484-1236 to inquire about such tours.

Frequently Asked Questions from Students

Q: Will I get to touch the animals?

A: Yes. Every day you will have interaction with the animals, including scratching and petting them, and even brushing the cows.

Q: Will I be able to try the maple syrup on the Farm?

A: Absolutely. It is a common ingredient in the kitchen and you will get to try it on anything from pancakes to yogurt and fruit. If you are on the farm in early spring, you will also have a chance to try the sap which makes the syrup.

Q: Do Cows Bite?

A: No, the cows do not bite. In fact all the animals on the Farm are used to being cared for by school-aged kids, and therefore look at all children as their 'friends'.

Q: Will I have the opportunity to prepare food while I am at the Farm?

A: We sometimes have a cookie making lesson, teaching you about the importance of each ingredient and what part of farming they might relate to. And yes, you do get to eat them afterwards, as one of your desserts.

Q: Are there snakes on the Farm?

A: Yes, we do have snakes around the Farm, but it is highly unlikely that you will ever see any. There are NO poisonous snakes in the area around the farm.

Q: Will we have the opportunity to try the vegetables that we harvest from the garden?

A: Yes. Many, if not all, of the vegetables that are ready for harvest will be prepared in the kitchen as a part of your meals.

Q: Do I have to worry about any wild animals?

A: Even though the Farm is surrounded by large areas of woods, there are no wild animals on the trails or near the woods.

Q: Is there Poison Ivy?

A: There is no Poison Ivy around the Farm.

Q: Is this Farm like a school?

A: Yes. Our Farm is an outdoor classroom that operates like a school. All of our classes and workshops throughout the day take place in the barns, in the garden, on the trails and in the dorm and participation is expected just as if you were at school.

Q: Can I take pictures while I am there?

A: Yes. Cameras (not cellphones) are absolutely allowed on the Farm.

Q: Can I use my cellphone while I am there?

A: No. Students have a much better experience without the distraction of their phones.

Q: Do kids come here every week?

A: Yes. Kids are here every week from March through November. Sometimes we have groups that come and stay with us in the middle of winter.

Q: Do we have our own bedrooms and bathrooms?

A: Boys and girls will have separate bedrooms and bathrooms. No one person has their own private bedroom or bathroom.

Q: Is there shopping around the Farm?

A: The town of Reading, VT is VERY small. There are no stores or malls in the area. But we do have souvenirs for sale, such as T-shirts and maple syrup, water bottles, magnets and other items in our Farm store.

Q: What do we do if it rains or snows?

A: We always have to spend time each day taking care of the animals in the barn, rain or shine. On those days when rain might be in the forecast, we have many fun indoor activities to keep us busy before we go back outside and finish our work.

Q: Will we have to work with manure?

A: Taking care of the animals means cleaning the barns of their manure. We always have to shovel or rake out the barns. And we have plenty of pairs of farm boots on hand to help us with our work.

Q: Do we need to bring work gloves?

A: No. Work gloves are not generally needed. But we have a lot of gloves on hand for you to use should we ever need them.