

Teacher Planning Packet

Fall 2018 - Spring 2019



MCDOWELL
Farm School

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The mission of the McDowell Farm School is to inspire curiosity, teach problem solving, and empower community connections through sustainable agriculture.

During their time on the farm, students are teeming with questions...

“Why are the eggs warm?”

What makes the best soil?

Why are you a farmer?”

Each question provides the space to not only **deepen their science understanding**, but to connect their knowledge to new situations.



McDowell Farm School classes

- **engage student curiosity**
- lay a strong foundation for meaningful **inquiry based learning**.
- encourage careful **observation** that leads to **evidence based problem solving**.

Our goal is to bring kids face to face with the science of the classroom through the lens of sustainable farming. Students discover their interests and we facilitate understanding and appreciation of their world. Our chosen pathways are through food and water systems, emphasizing the power of personal choice and how choice directly affects outcomes.

Each day on the farm, students **apply classroom concepts to the natural world**. They are excited to learn during our multi-day, overnight program that gives students a unique opportunity to experience the Farm School community. Students share living and dining space, **complete projects as a team** and are asked to **support one another** through new challenges.

Our classroom extends beyond the walls of our teaching kitchen, beyond our 40 acres of gardens and fields, and even beyond the 1100 acres of forests, streams and canyons of McDowell! **We make the world our classroom and our place to discover.**

This planning packet will help create a powerful learning experience for your trip! It includes the following information to help get organized:

- **General Program Information** **Page 4**
- **Suggested Planning Timeline** **Page 5**
- **3 Day Program Contract** **Page 6-7**
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- **Parent Letter To Send Home and Packing Lists** **Page 23-24**
- **Day Group Information and Forms** **Page 25-29**

Please contact us at anytime with any questions you may have!

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Program Coordinator Email: farmschool@campmcdowell.com

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General Program and Facility Details

Lodging - McDowell Farm School (MFS) has nine cabins with heating and air conditioning. All cabins are universally designed and accessible for everyone. **Each cabin sleeps a total of 24 people**, has individual showers and toilet stalls, and designated storm shelters. Separate lodging for teachers is available if enough parents are brought as chaperones for cabins.

Meals - Meals are prepared and served by our talented food service staff and served family style in the Doug dining hall. Special dietary needs can usually be accommodated with advance notice and planning.

Health Information - We make every reasonable effort to ensure the health and safety of your students while they are here. Camp McDowell has two full time nurses that take great pride in the care of our students. **To meet our health and safety goals, it is important that your Health Forms arrive at the center 21 DAYS PRIOR to your arrival.** If your forms do not arrive seven days before your visit, you may be responsible for handling ALL medications on the first day until the nurse, kitchen and program staff can be updated on relevant health concerns. ***All overnight participants (including chaperones and teachers) must complete and sign our Health Form to participate McDowell Farm School activities.**

Making a Reservation - To make a reservation, please contact the Farm School Director (see front cover). For new schools, a non-refundable confirmation fee is required within 2 weeks of your request to be placed on the calendar. For reservations of 50 or fewer students, the fee is \$150; more than 50 students is \$250. The **confirmation fee is waived for annually returning schools.**

Cancellation Policy - An accurate count of student participants is due at least 60 days prior to your scheduled trip date. Once the 60 day deadline has passed, the school is responsible for a payment of 75% of the number of reserved participants. Payment is due within 30 days of cancellation. Groups are expected to bring the number of participants indicated at the time of registration. McDowell Farm School allows for a 10% reduction in group size from the reserved amount without penalty. For decreases greater than 10%, the group will be billed 50% of the no-show registrants' fees.

Our Staff - Our experienced staff are professional educators and work with you throughout the entirety of your program. We plan, teach and supply materials for all activities and classes. Our caring, professional instructors are trained in a student-centered approach to education.

Chaperones - MFS recommends a **1:10 adult/student ratio including teachers**. Chaperones can help make your trip easier or, if not chosen properly, they can make it more difficult. It is worthwhile to take the time to choose your chaperones carefully.

Cellphones - We ask teachers to please collect all cell phones from students upon arrival to camp. It is part of our mission to build community connections and phones are a distraction in the dining hall and during class. Thank you for your support.

Recreation - Recreation and Rest is **supervised by teachers and chaperones**. A variety of optional activities are available and will be discussed while planning your program.

Price List

1 day = \$27 per person (\$34 with lunch); 6 daytime class hours

3 day = \$155 per person: 12 daytime class hours & 2 night programs/ 7 meals & 4 snacks/ 2 nights lodging

For every **ten** students, **one** adult may come free. Additional adults may attend for **full price**.

We can accommodate **80 students per session**. If your group exceeds this, we can divide them into multiple sessions.

Lead Teacher Organizational Timeline

Teachers, please use this timeline as a guide to help organize and get all required information to the Farm School. CHECK THE BOXES AS YOU COMPLETE EACH STEP TO HELP KEEP ORGANIZED.

As Soon As Possible:

- Email, fax, or mail your Reservation Confirmation to secure dates
- New Schools: submit a confirmation deposit within two weeks of your Reservation Confirmation
- Arrange parent and/or student orientation meeting at your school. We are happy to attend!
- Recruit physically active chaperones - at least one for every farm crew and cabin
- Arrange transportation
- Some schools find it helpful to get a parent helper plan and gather paperwork
- Collect deposit from students to secure their spot on the trip (suggested)

2 Months Prior

- Email, fax, or mail the completed 2 Page Program Contract with trip details
- Send the Student and Parent Health Forms, Parent Letter and Packing List
- Continue collecting payment from students and chaperones

1 Month Prior

- Organize and prepare Farm Crew Lists and Cabin Lists
- Confirm your final participant numbers with Program Coordinator.
- Collect Health Forms and fees from participants and preparing your students for the trip!
- Arrange a meeting with your chaperones to prepare them for trip expectations.

3 Weeks Prior

- Complete and send the following information to the Program Coordinator
 - _Completed *Health Forms for all participants*
 - _Completed *Farm Crew Form*
 - _Completed *Cabin Assignment Form*
 - _Any updates or changes for trip information

1 Week Prior

- Contact Coordinator by email or phone to check for last minute updates and details
- Meet with students and discuss how to be prepared for their trip
- Make copies of your farm crew and cabin assignments for all teachers and chaperones on trip

Morning of the Trip!

At School

- Collect all medicines and be sure they are in original containers and labeled.
- Be sure everyone has bedding, appropriate clothes for weather, and water bottles
- Take a headcount!
- Hand out copies of field group and cabin lists to chaperones.

At McDowell Farm School

- Meet our staff greeters at the Camp Store, give any group or cabin changes to staff
- Turn in all medicines, including inhalers and epipens to medical staff**
- Help students get settled into their cabins
- Join teacher/chaperone meeting, relax and have a great time at McDowell Farm School!

McDowell Farm School Program Contract

EMAIL to farmschool@campmcdowell.com or Fax to 205-221-3454 Attn: Farm School Coordinator
Please email or fax this contract **2 MONTHS** prior to your visit.

School: _____ Reserved dates: _____

Lead Teacher: _____ Grade(s): _____

Other School Contact: _____ Principal _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

School Phone: (____) _____ Fax: (____) _____ Cell Phone: (____) _____

E-mail: _____ School Nurse: _____

Best way to contact (circle one): School Phone / Cell Phone / E-mail Best Time to Contact: _____

Arrival time: _____ (10 Mon. 11 Wed. suggested) Departure time: _____ (1:00 suggested, after lunch)

How will your group be arriving? (#'s if known) _____ Bus(es) _____ Car(s)

STUDENTS: # of boys: _____ # of girls: _____ Total # of STUDENTS: _____

*ADULTS: # of men: _____ # of women: _____ Total # of ADULTS: _____

**Please include ALL Teachers & Chaperones in the Adult numbers* TOTAL #: _____

FARM CREWS: _____ # BOYS CABINS: _____ # GIRLS CABINS: _____
(10-12 students/group) (24 beds/cabin) (24 beds/cabin)

Do you need a separate Cabin/Lodge (circle preference) for teachers? If so, for how many? _____

Are you having a mandatory chaperone meeting ahead of your trip? Y / N

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FARM SCHOOL: Assist with pre-trip planning; provide complete educational programming; inform participants of their responsibilities, camp rules and emergency procedures; prepare meals and evening snacks; clean and maintain facilities and grounds; and provide a safe and wholesome atmosphere.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LEAD TEACHER: Make a reservation, submit confirmation fee and return contract; arrange transportation; arrange for one physically-able chaperone for each cabin and field group; communicate with students, parents and chaperones about the trip; collect fees, medicines; mail health forms at least 3 weeks prior to your trip; email/fax field and cabin group lists; participate in the program with chaperones and students; and submit final payment.

DAMAGE: The Center reserves the right to send home any child who becomes ill, destroys property, behaves aggressively or takes any other action detrimental to other students or the program. The school will be responsible for providing transportation in such cases, and for any damage to the facilities and equipment. No refunds will be made under these conditions. **The Farm School cannot be held responsible for loss or damage to property brought to McDowell. Please encourage students to leave valuables and large amounts of cash at home.**

INVOICE: On your last day at McDowell, we will give you an invoice for the balance of your payment. **Payment is due within 30 days of your trip dates.**

I agree to the terms of this contract and agree that my group will abide by all McDowell policies.

Signature of Lead Teacher

Date

Program Contract: Class Options

Day Time Class Selections: All 3 day programs will have 12 HOURS of daytime classes and 2 night programs. For 2, 4 or 5 day programs, please discuss class selections with staff. Reference the Curriculum Guide in this packet for more detailed class information, then **contact our Coordinator to build your program!**

All school groups take three CORE CLASSES. Please circle Farm Fauna CLASS LENGTH

CORE CLASSES					
Plant it, Earth!	3 hrs	Farm to Table	3 hrs	Farm Fauna	1.5 or 3 hrs

Then select additional classes and class lengths to complete your 12 hours of class time.

OPTIONAL CLASSES					
Big, Bug World	1.5 hrs	Farm Ecology	1.5 hrs		
Hard at Work	1.5 or 3 hrs	Sustainability	1.5hrs		
Nature Journaling	1.5 hrs	Nature Hike	1.5 hrs		
Canoeing on Sloan Lake	1.5 hrs	Wilderness Transformed	1.5 or 3 hrs		

Evening Program Selections: Please rank your preferences, as weather can be a factor!

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Campfire | <input type="checkbox"/> Barn Dance | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Council |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Night Hike | <input type="checkbox"/> Pioneering Alabama | <input type="checkbox"/> Livestock Lullabies (group of 25 or less) |

THEMES - Please CIRCLE one of the following themes for your trip. Our staff will carry this theme through each class, in addition to covering the correlated goals and standards.

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| Wonderment | Health/Nutrition | Energy Flow through the Farm |
| Scientific Method | Journaling | Sustainability |

The following information will help staff have a better understanding of your group needs.

1. Have any of your teachers and chaperones attended the Farm School before? _____
2. Have any of your students attended the Farm School before? _____ If so, how many? _____
3. Does your school have an outdoor garden/classroom? If so, what is your students' participation in that program? _____

How would you characterize your school? (Choose all that apply)

- Private Public Open classroom Self-contained classroom Students move from class to class
 Below grade level Above grade level At grade level Urban Suburban Rural Homeschool
 Other: _____

Please tell us a bit about the community your school comes from and how the students learn,

interact, and relate to one another.

MCDOWELL FARM SCHOOL CURRICULUM GUIDE

Our programs are custom built. We want to work with you to create a program **that fits the needs of your students and classroom.** Our program is a mixture of core classes, influenced by the season, with optional day and night classes chosen by the lead teacher. We are flexible and fluid, changing with the plants, animals and seasons!

Educational Philosophy At MFS, we believe education should be rooted in experiential learning. **Our curriculum is hands-on and student-centered.** Our instructors use **OUR LEARNING CYCLE, to engage students through invitation, exploration, concept invention, application, and reflection of their environment.** Students are introduced to new concepts and skills, challenged to develop their own , and encouraged to in their own communities.

Teacher Credit (CEUs) Students come in all ages, so the Farm School provides certificates showing time spent here which most schools accept for professional development credit.

Curriculum Our curriculum is cultivated as the farm grows and evolves. Alabama’s history is rich in agriculture, and science is necessary in developing sustainable systems to c food. **Our classes are correlated to the Alabama Course of Study** and to the science standards for grade levels k-12. A correlations chart is available upon request.

Our curriculum is structured to incorporate **CORE CLASSES** in every program. The length of these core classes can be adjusted if there is specific interest in topics/themes.

Farm To Table	Food for Thought (meal time)
Farm Fauna	
Plant It, Earth!	

In addition to the core classes, teachers will select **ADDITIONAL CLASSES**

Big, Bug World!	Farm Ecology
Into the Pasture	A Wilderness Transformed
SustainAbility	Hard at Work
Nature Hike OR Canoeing at Sloan Lake	

And two **NIGHT PROGRAMS**

Night Hike	Pioneering Alabama	Community Council
Campfire	Barn Dance	Livestock Lullabies

Journaling Journaling is a great way for students to record and reflect on their experience on the farm. School groups are encouraged to bring their own journals for each participant whether they take our Into the Pasture class or not! If you are interested, please work with our Program Coordinator to determine the best way to implement journaling throughout your entire program.

Please read the following pages for a sample schedule and specific class details.

SAMPLE 3 DAY PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Students spend over 15 hours of class time with us over three days during our program.

DAY 1

10:00-11:50	Arrive at McDowell Farm School *Buses greeted at Camp Store Unload bus @ the Doug and move into cabins, Welcome Meeting
12:00-1:00	Lunch
1:00-4:00	Class with Farm Staff
4:00-4:30	Canteen: Snack
*4:30-5:45	Recreation: <i>Supervision by School Teachers and Chaperones</i>
*6:00- 7:15	Supper
7:15- 8:45	Evening Program and Snack with Staff

DAY 2

8:00-9:00	Breakfast
9:00-11:45	Class with Farm Staff
12:00- 1:00	Lunch
1:00-4:00	Class with Farm Staff
4:00-4:30	Canteen: Snack and opportunity to purchase souvenirs
*4:30-5:45	Recreation: <i>Lead by School Teachers and Chaperones</i>
*6:00- 7:15	Supper
7:15- 8:45	Evening Program and Snack with Staff

DAY 3

8:00-9:00	Breakfast
9:00-11:45	Class with Farm Staff
12:00- 1:00	Lunch, load bus, depart

*Times vary seasonally, as daylight hours shift.

Arrivals & Departures: We would like schools to arrive by 10:00am on Monday or 11:00 am on Wednesday. Suggested departure is 1:00 pm, after lunch on the final day. If you cannot arrive/depart at that time, please arrange times with Program Coordinator.

McDowell Farm School Class Overview

Please read through this guide of classes to get an idea of the programs we have to offer. Classes can be adapted to meet your needs and objectives!

Core Classes

Farm to Table Discover the energy needed to transfer produce from the field to the table. Students harvest the freshest foods and get creative by preparing a seasonal dish.

Objectives:

- Create confidence in proper harvesting, cleaning, and cooking skills as a team.
- Explore the science behind food preparation.
- Compare resources used in local versus conventional food systems and the impact of our food choices.

Key Terms: harvest, nutrients, energy, health, food system, nutrition, calories, protein, food safety, cooking, mealtime

Farm Fauna Investigate the roles animals play on the farm by identifying and meeting their daily needs. Students compare our goats, chickens, pigs and rabbits and explore the animals' vast impacts on food production and environmental health.

Objectives:

- Carry out daily chores, practice observation, respect and the kindness needed to keep animals healthy.
- Compare diverse animal life cycles, anatomies, functions, and behaviors on the farm.
- Explore and create ideal habitats to meet the needs of farm animals.

Key Terms: respect, niche, physical and behavioral adaptations, pasture rotation, sustainability, anatomy, habitat

Plant It, Earth! Unearth the secrets of soil and plant biology! Students get their hands dirty when they take time and care to build soil, seed and transplant seasonal crops, and explore different stages of the plant life cycle.

Objectives:

- Practice soil, seed and plant management to ensure strength and growth.
- Compare crop diversity through various life cycles, traits, structures, and functions of plants.
- Investigate the flow of energy and nutrients that cycle from soil to plants to people.

Key Terms: soil, compost, decompose, minerals, cover crop, crop rotation, companion planting,

photosynthesis

Food for Thought (Meal Time Class) Conservation principles are put into practice at the table. Students are empowered to make big change through small, personal choices.

Objectives:

- Measure the food we throw into a landfill.
- Discuss the impact of our choices to reduce food waste and conserve energy.
- Create solutions to reduce food waste and the demand for natural resources needed for food distribution.

Key Terms: food waste, choice, conservation, energy, compost

Optional Classes

Big, Bug World! From honey bees to potato beetles, discover the diverse insect populations that live and work on the farm. Students compare and contrast beneficial insects versus pests in the garden by examining the anatomy, niche, and complex social structures of the bugs they find.

Objectives:

- Collect insects and compare body structures, behaviors, and impacts on the farm.
- Find evidence to determine which insects are beneficial and which are pests.
- Create solutions that can be used to attract beneficial insects and minimize pests.

Key Terms: beneficial insect, pest, adaptation, niche, decomposer, pollinator, predator, herbivore, carnivore, omnivore invertebrate, head, thorax, abdomen,

Farm Ecology Discover the farm in order to piece together the relationship between food, farming, and our land! Students gain an introduction to sustainable agriculture and the interactions between systems at work.

Objectives:

- Observe interdependent relationships and connections between the plants and animals in the dynamic farm habit.
- Analyze the resources needed to produce food on a farm and distribute into food systems.
- Evaluate the impacts of agriculture and our choices on our natural world.

Key Terms: farm, ecology, habitat, sustainable, biodiversity/crop diversity, natural resource

Nature Journaling Observe favorite aspects of the farm and document the findings! Students use journaling activities to examine, describe, and evaluate life on the farm and in the forest to build appreciation and promote creativity.

Objectives:

- Observe the details of our farm and forest habitats through sensory awareness.
- Discover new perspectives to connect to our surroundings.
- Explore and reflect to promote deeper creative expression.

Key Terms: observation, detail, sense, perspective, journal

A Wilderness Transformed Hike through the surrounding woods, streams, and canyons to discover the connection between the farm and the forest. Students evaluate the impacts of agriculture on our natural world.

Objectives:

- Compare the different ways the forest versus the farm provide essential resources.
- Debate the impacts of farming on our natural resources.
- Discuss our role in the history, transformation, and future of agriculture.

Key Terms: habitat, hunter-gatherer, agrarian society, perspective, viewpoint

SustainAbility Debate the definition of “sustainability” and assess the farm’s sustainable land management systems. Students follow the flow of energy through composting, rainwater harvesting, reuse of materials, and alternative energy systems to brainstorm how to create positive change their communities.

Objectives:

- Compare and contrast open versus closed systems on the farm.
- Discover opportunities to reduce waste and continue the flow of energy on the farm.
- Create sustainable solutions using technology to conserve energy and make a positive impact in our communities and the surrounding ecosystem.

Key Terms: energy, potential, kinetic, open systems, closed systems, electricity, conservation, sustainable, natural resources, renewable energy, non-renewable energy

Hard At Work Take part in seasonal, project based learning on the farm. Students work as a team to set goals, problem solve challenges, and build confidence throughout the process. Additional objectives for projects are identified with each individual school!

Objectives:

- Analyze possible challenges and create solutions.
- Set goals and strategies to complete steps of projects.
- Brainstorm or design ways to implement improvement projects at the farm and in communities back home.

Key Terms: goals, communication, problem solving, creativity, community

Nature Hike Explore the creeks, streams, and woods of McDowell. Students take time to discover

unique trails, plants, animals and insects in the forest.

Objectives:

- Guided exploration develops sense of place and a connection to our environment.
- Foster appreciation for woodlands.
- Awareness of resources available in the forest and their uses to humans and animals.

Key Terms: watershed, natural resources, exploration, sensory awareness, trees, stewardship

Canoeing Experience the beauty of canoeing on Sloan Lake! Students build communication skills while learning how to canoe. All students must wear a life jacket and be prepared to get wet!

Objectives:

- Guided exploration develops sense of place and connection to our environment.
- Students must work together and communicate to canoe successfully.

Key Terms: bow, stern, paddle, teamwork, watershed, communication, safety

Evening Programs

Campfire Everyone spends a fun evening full of singing, dancing, laughing and storytelling around the fire, engaging with each other and our local, traditional folk arts!

Objectives:

- Have fun without using electricity.
- Pass on traditions through oral history and storytelling.
- Experience culture through song, dance and creative activities.

Key Terms: storytelling, community building, unplugged fun, laughter, elemental appreciation

Night Hike Use your senses in a nocturnal setting, seeing the farm and forests from a different perspective! Students explore the surrounding woods, creatures, and night sky.

Objectives:

- Discover special adaptations that allow creatures to be successful in the absence of light, including humans.
- Measure activity from day to night on the farm.
- Observe the moon, constellations, stars, and galaxy in the night sky.

Key Terms: nocturnal, diurnal, crepuscular, adaptations, astronomy, constellation, night vision

Pioneering Alabama Explore Alabama history and culture through traditional life skills such as candle making, rope spinning, discovering technology with a crosscut saw and other tools, making butter and playing games.

Objectives:

- Discuss technology for early Americans that made their life easier, comparing how different tools have changed over time.
- Evaluate the impact and evolution of technology on cultural southeastern traditions.
- Create handmade items.

Key Terms: pioneer, technology, tool

Barn Dance Organized and free style dancing to folk and modern music. Students experience a fun, energizing, and community-building night of dancing, learning, and self-expression.

Objectives:

- Learn a specific style of dance that has strong roots in Alabama.
- Awareness of folk arts.
- Expression of self through dance.
- Community cohesion through contra dance.

Key Terms: music, community, dancing through the ages, folk, rhythm, celebration

Community Council Through problem solving, discussion and collaboration the council must persuade their fellow neighbors to get on board with their ideas. Students apply concepts learned on the farm, take on various roles, each with different perspectives and interests in the land, and debate possible management options.

Objectives:

- Assess land management options
- Develop persuasive arguments justifying the decisions in a land proposal
- Consider different perspectives and opinions with respect to others' viewpoints

Key Terms: perspective, persuasion, viewpoint, land development, conservation, preservation, land management, sustainable

Livestock Lullabies Students experience the farm at night by taking care of the animals, learning about their nighttime habits, and enjoying the peacefulness surrounding the farm at night.

Objectives:

- Discover special adaptations that allow creatures to be successful in the absence of light, including humans.
- Measure activity from day to night on the farm.
- Observe the moon, constellations, stars, and galaxy in the night sky.
- Review animals needs: Food, water, shelter, & care; sing a song to animals to conclude class and demonstrate care.

Key Terms: nocturnal, diurnal, crepuscular, adaptations,, constellation, shelter, animal care

School Led Program Lead teachers create and lead their own night program with students.

McDowell Farm School Themes 2018-2019

Each school selects one of the following themes to be carried through all classes during their program. Each theme poses an essential question, intended to build curiosity and a focus to connect all classes.

Please ask students the following question at the beginning and end of every class! They should not be able to answer this question right away, but, through investigation, have formed potential answers by the end. It is a great idea to ask these questions several times throughout the class. It can be a great transition and connection between activities. With practice, you will find creative ways to build these themes into the experience, giving students the opportunity to create a complete story of the McDowell Farm School that will last in their storybook of life.



Scientific Method: Show that science is systematic and that they can be scientists.

1. Question (What do you wonder? What do you want to know?)
2. Research/Observe
3. Hypothesis/Predict
4. Test/Experiment
5. Analyze results/Conclusion
6. Was your hypothesis true? If not, should you conduct another test?

Essential Question: Why? (Provide evidence/observations to answer student inquiries) When have you used the scientific method before and how can/did we use it today? What is your hypothesis?

Activity: Partner up and come up with as many questions as they can; share one of their favorites, then try to answer it during class.

Wonderment: When students are given space to explore, play, and learn at their own pace, they are more successful! Let students take ownership of their learning and investigate what is most interesting to them. Developing curiosity in the world will cultivate an interest in lifelong learning.

Essential Question: What are you most curious about?

Activities: Practice the exercise: "I notice, I wonder, it reminds me of..."

Partner up and come up with as many questions as they can; share one of their favorites.

Energy Flow through the Farm: Help students identify the foundational role the sun plays in our energy system, and follow the flow of energy as it changes forms from plant, to animal, to decomposer, to soil. Be creative and have fun!

Essential Question: Where do you see something on the farm providing energy for something else?

Activity: Bring compost out from the dining hall or teaching kitchen to experience first hand the transition from waste to soil.

Journaling: How do careers in science and art overlap? If researchers make discoveries but are unable to apply it to our needs, how valuable is that research? Where do we see science and art overlap on the

farm? (Biomimicry - velcro was designed when a man looked more closely at how burrs were stuck to his dog's fur; Architecture - balancing design, durability, sustainability, cost; Industrial design - Nike designs shoes that support athletes and look good.) The science, the questions, the creative thinking, the writing, communicating, drawing and designing are all valuable in the workspace. We are constantly collecting data in order to design better systems!

Essential Question: How does science motivate art?

Sustainability: Groups younger than 5th grade can frame their exploration with the terms reduce, reuse, and recycle. Fifth grade and above can be introduced to the sustainability model framed with the ideas of environment, society, and economy. Where these three concepts overlap, we find sustainable solutions!

Essential Question: Where do you see sustainable choices being made on the farm? How could our farm be more sustainable? How are we impacting the environment, people, and the economy of the future on our farm?

Activities: Design a farm at the beginning of the week. On the last day, flip their paper over and redesign their farm into a sustainable farm. What changes were made? Is it possible to provide everything they need?

Health/Nutrition: There is debate over what it means to be “healthy” or how to prepare a “nutritious” meal. Healthy foods start with healthy farms. We create healthy soils for plants to grow, making our salads full of nutrients. We are not certified organic, but we avoid “cides” to minimize impacts the health of our farm, our environment, and our bodies! How can students stay healthy?

Essential Question: In what ways are we keeping the farm and ourselves healthy? What does “healthy” mean?

Helpful Hints for Choosing Chaperones

Your chaperones can help to make your trip easier or, if not chosen properly, they can make it more difficult. Therefore, it is worthwhile to take the time to choose chaperones carefully! The following are some criteria you might consider in making your selections:

Do they enjoy the outdoors? Our classes are held outdoors rain or shine. We encourage getting wet and muddy. If the chaperone is not enthusiastic about being outside, they will lessen the students' experience.

Are they a positive role model for the whole group? Are they going to set a good example to the students in terms of their own values, behavior, attitudes and

Is this person physically fit? The classes at MFS are active. Most of them require walking and working on the farm. Participation is encouraged and the chaperones must be able to keep up with the students.

Do they want to help out for the right reasons? Some chaperones may see this as a vacation or as time to spend alone with their child. In reality it will be a lot of work. They will be with the students all day and all night. Sometimes they might be the only chaperone supervising a group of students. Make sure they are committed to being on the trip for all of the students and to taking an *active* role in supervision.

Have they worked with groups of children before? Taking care of one's own child is different from supervising a whole group. Different skills are required. Having some adults with previous experience could be helpful. Examples: scout troops, youth groups, school trips, boys and girls clubs, etc.

Additional Helpful Hints

We recommend no more than three adults per farm crew. From our experience, we have found that too many chaperones detract from the experience for the children. In this case, sometimes the main emphasis shifts away from supervising the students to socializing with other chaperones. We have found that some students are distracted by their own parents and are more likely to participate when their parents are not immediately present. Also, too many chaperones can lead to the "someone else is watching them" syndrome, which means that no one is supervising the students.

We suggest assigning **two adults per cabin when possible.**

Consider asking parents to complete an application if they are interested in being a chaperone. This can help you make a well-informed decision about who to choose.

Farm Crew Assignment List

School _____

**Please email or fax to Farm School Coordinator
farmschool@campmcdowell.com*

1 Month Prior to Trip
fax 205.221.3454

We encourage you to use the excel spreadsheet that the Program Coordinator will send to you along with this packet (and again, if requested) to fill out Farm Crews and Cabin Lists.

Assign 10 to 12 students and at least 1 adult to each farm crew. Students will attend all classes and evening programs with their crew. If you are bringing multiple grade levels, group by grade level.

***** One adult must be with a Farm Crew at all times.*****

Farm Crew # _____	Farm Crew # _____	Farm Crew # _____
1	1	1
2	2	2
3	3	3
4	4	4
5	5	5
6	6	6
7	7	7
8	8	8
9	9	9
10	10	10
11	11	11
12	12	12
Adults (teachers & Chaperones)	Adults (teachers & Chaperones)	Adults (teachers & Chaperones)
1	1	1
2	2	2
3	3	3

Cabin Assignment Lists

School _____

**Please email or fax to Farm School Coordinator
farmschool@campmcdowell.com*

1 Month Prior to Trip
fax 205.221.3454

We encourage you to use the excel spreadsheet that the Program Coordinator will send to you along with this packet (and again, if requested) to fill out Farm Crews and Cabin Lists.

Each cabin is a sturdy and clean block building with heat and air-conditioning, full baths including individual showers and toilets, and a storm shelter. Each cabin has an 24 bed capacity, and requires **at least one chaperone per cabin. Please indicate the adults below.**

Cabin # _____	Cabin # _____	Cabin # _____
1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.
4.	4.	4.
5.	5.	5.
6.	6.	6.
7.	7.	7.
8.	8.	8.
9.	9.	9.
10.	10.	10.
11.	11.	11.
12.	12.	12.
13.	13.	13.
14.	14.	14.
15.	15.	15.
16.	16.	16.
17.	17.	17.
18.	18.	18.
19.	19.	19.
20.	20.	20.
21.	21.	21.
22.	22.	22.
23. Adult	23. Adult	23. Adult
24. Adult	24. Adult	24. Adult

McDowell Farm School

105 Delong Rd Nauvoo, AL 35578

Phone: 205.387.1806

mcdowellfarmschool.com

Fax: 205.221.3454

School _____

Updated March 2018 - Page 1

STUDENT HEALTH FORM (All information is confidential-PLEASE PRINT)

STUDENT NAME _____
(LAST) (FIRST) (MIDDLE) (PREFERRED NAME)

STUDENT INFORMATION: Date of Birth: _____ Sex: M / F Age _____ Grade: _____ Height & Weight: _____

Primary Physician _____ Physician Phone _____

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Parent / Guardian Name _____

Address _____
(STREET) (CITY) (STATE) (ZIP CODE)

Phone _____

INCLUDE AREA CODE Primary Number (ex. Home) Secondary Phone Number (ex. Cell) Alternate Phone Number (ex. Work)

Parent email address _____

In case of an EMERGENCY, CONTACT: _____
(NAME & Relationship to Student) (Day Phone) (Evening Phone)

Is student on a special diet? Y / N Please explain, (what they CAN eat as well as what they CANNOT eat): _____

**** If special foods must be sent to camp with your child, please contact the Program Coordinator at 205.387.1806 ****

ALLERGY INFORMATION (USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY)

To the best of your knowledge does your child have any allergies? YES / NO (Circle correct response)

If YES was circled please indicate to which of the following your child is allergic. Please be specific:

FOODS: _____

PLANTS: _____

MEDICINE ALLERGIES: _____

ANIMALS: _____

OTHER: _____

INSECTS: _____

Please indicate what treatment your child should receive if exposure occurs to any of the first five (Any medications to which your Child is allergic will NOT be given): _____

**** If your child is bringing an EPIPen to McDowell you MUST talk with our Program RN before your child arrives.****

CONTACT PROGRAM RN - BETHANYNURSE@CAMPMCDOWELL.COM OR 205.387.1806 EXT 119

PLEASE READ, COMPLETE AND SIGN THE BACK SIDE [pg. 2] OF THIS FORM

REGARDING MEDICATIONS WHILE AT MCDOWELL FARM SCHOOL

GENERAL RULES: **All medications **must** be in their original container with the student's name and school written on the container.

There **must be clear directions on when &/or why to give the medication.

NOTE: Give as directed is NOT acceptable

The container **must specify the strength and dose of the medication.

If it is an Over-The-Counter medication **it MUST be age-appropriate and will be given following manufacturer recommendations. If it is not recommended for your child's age and your child's Health care provider prescribed it then a note from that provider must be sent with the OTC medication.

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS:

The following section must be filled out by the student's PARENT or LEGAL GUARDIAN.
(ALL MEDICATION IS DISPENSED BY A LICENSED NURSE OR AUTHORIZED SCHOOL PERSONNEL.)

List **ALL PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS** you will send with your child and circle the best time(s) to administer this medicine to the child, choosing from the following:

B*= Before Breakfast, **B**= After Breakfast, **L**= After Lunch, **C**=Canteen (4PM), **D**= After Dinner, **HS**= At Bedtime

(Attach Additional Sheet if Necessary)

(PLEASE CIRCLE)

Medication_____	Dosage_____	Reason_____	Time Given- B* B L C D HS
Medication_____	Dosage_____	Reason_____	Time Given- B* B L C D HS
Medication_____	Dosage_____	Reason_____	Time Given- B* B L C D HS

OVER THE COUNTER (OTC) MEDICATIONS:

**** ALL OTC MEDICATIONS MUST BE PROVIDED BY PARENTS/LEGAL GUARDIANS OF THE STUDENT ****

Please list the OTC medicines that you will be sending with your child on the lines provided below:

Name of OTC Medication

(EXAMPLE) CLARITIN

Reason(s) for Giving

(EXAMPLE) SEASONAL ALLERGIES- EVERY DAY BEFORE BREAKFAST

**In the event of unexpected illnesses, limited OTC medicines will be available for your child-
Which of the following medicines do you permit to be given to your child by our Nurse?**

Ibuprofen: Yes__ No__ **Acetaminophen:** Yes__ No__ **Benadryl:** Yes__ No__ **Cough Drops:** Yes__ No__ **Tums:** Yes__ No__

PHOTO RELEASE "I give my permission for any photos or videos taken of my child or any artwork and writing made by my child during educational programs at the Center to be used for the public relations of the program."

ACCIDENT INSURANCE COVERAGE Accident insurance costs are covered in the program fee and protect all students throughout the program. The maximum benefits are: Sickness, \$1000; Accidents, \$2500; and Loss of Life, \$2500. Parents or guardians are responsible for expenses in excess of these amounts.

MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION AND RELEASE

"I AUTHORIZE THE NURSE OR AUTHORIZED SCHOOL PERSONNEL, THE TASK OF ASSISTING MY CHILD IN TAKING THE ABOVE MEDICATIONS. I GIVE THE NURSE PERMISSION TO SPEAK WITH MY CHILD'S HEALTH CARE PROVIDER OR PHARMACIST AND AUTHORIZE MY CHILD'S HEALTH CARE PROVIDER OR PHARMACIST TO SPEAK WITH THE NURSE SHOULD A QUESTION COME UP ABOUT ONE OF MY CHILD'S MEDICATIONS. ALL HEALTH INFORMATION IS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL BE SHARED ONLY ON A NEED-TO-KNOW BASIS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF YOUR CHILD."

"This is to certify that the information provided on this form is accurate to the best of my knowledge,"

SIGNATURE OF PARENT or LEGAL GUARDIAN DATE

Copy this page

McDowell Farm School

105 Delong Rd Nauvoo, AL 35578

Phone: 205.387.1806

mcdowellfarmschool.com

Fax: 205.221.3454

ADULT HEALTH FORM (All information is confidential)

____ Teacher **or** ____ Chaperone / Parent School _____

NAME: _____ Sex M F Birth Date _____
(LAST) (FIRST) (MIDDLE) (CIRCLE) (MONTH/DAY/YEAR)

Address: _____
(STREET / P.O. BOX) CITY STATE ZIP

Email: _____

Home phone: _____ Height: _____ Weight: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT PERSON: _____
(NAME / RELATIONSHIP TO YOU / PHONE NUMBER AT HOME AND WORK)

Do you have any known allergies? N / Y To What: _____

Are you on a special diet? N / Y Please explain: _____

Health problems: _____

PHOTO RELEASE AND PERMISSION TO CONTACT

I give permission for any photos or videos taken of me during the educational program at the Center to be used for the public relations of the program. I give permission for Camp McDowell to contact me regarding future programs and promotions.

MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION AND RELEASE

Should I sustain or incur any accident or illness while attending McDowell Farm School, I hereby authorize the Director, his agent or a school official to execute any and all documents in my behalf, including necessary releases, which might be required by a medical facility to perform emergency care.

This is to certify that I am in good physical condition and that the information provided is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

I authorize McDowell Farm School to allow medical agencies (including, but not limited to, hospitals, physician's offices, health clinics, dental clinics, pharmacies) to read the information contained in the accompanying Health Form. I agree that the information used will be limited to information necessary to fulfill the need or purpose for the disclosure.

All health information is considered confidential and will be shared only on a need to know basis to ensure your safety.

ACCIDENT INSURANCE DISCLAIMER

All attending adults are responsible for all incurred medical expenses while at McDowell Farm School (MFS). MFS accident insurance covers student participants ONLY.

This is to certify that the information provided is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

CHILD'S NAME: _____

PLEASE RETURN TO THE TEACHER ASAP

McDowell Farm School

105 Delong Rd Nauvoo, AL 35578

Phone: 205.387.1806

mcdowellfarmschool.com

Fax: 205.221.3454

Dear Parent or Guardian,

After collecting eggs from the chicken coop, students are teeming with questions...

“Why are the eggs different colors? Why are they warm? Are there baby chicks inside?”

Each question provides the opportunity to not only **deepen their science understanding**, but to connect their knowledge to new situations.

Each day on the farm, students **apply classroom concepts to the natural world**. They are excited to learn during our multi-day, overnight program that gives students a unique opportunity to experience the Farm School community. Students share living and dining space, **complete projects as a team** and are asked to **support one another** through new challenges.

Our classroom extends beyond the walls of our teaching kitchen, beyond our 40 acres of gardens and barns, and even beyond the 1100 acres of forests, streams and canyons of McDowell! **We make the world our classroom and our place to discover!**

Listed below are a **few important items worth emphasizing** about your child’s upcoming visit to **ensure their safety and comfort**. Please read the information below carefully.

Appropriate Clothing: Living and learning on a farm can be messy business and because **we spend most of our time outdoors (even in the rain and cold)**, please be sure to pack appropriate clothing for your child. Help your child be prepared with clothing for all kinds of weather as indicated on the **“Packing List.”** In truly inclement weather, we have ample indoor teaching space.

Student Health Form: For your child’s well being, please complete the attached Student Health Form and return it to your child’s teacher on time. ***Any student without a completed and signed medical form may not attend the McDowell Farm School.*** It is important that both pages of the form are completed and signed. **Please pay special attention to the allergy section, especially food and animal**, as we want to insure a safe and fun learning experience for all students.

Medications: Please follow instructions for **sending medications** and do not send unlabeled medications. *For special conditions, including severe allergies requiring an allergy injection, contact our Program Nurse at McDowell at 205.387.1806 ext. 119 or bethanynurse@campmcdowell.com.*

If you have any questions or concerns about our program, personnel, or facilities, please contact me directly. I am more than happy to take your calls!

Andrew Shea, Director
farmschooldirector@campmcdowell.com
205.387.1806 ext. 106



McDowell Farm School

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mcdowellfarmschool.com

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OVERNIGHT STUDENT PACKING LIST

Parents and Students, please be sure to

1. Limit yourself to one suitcase or duffel bag and a rolled up sleeping bag. You will carry your belongings from the bus to your cabin!
2. Put your name on everything.
3. Bring OLD clothes and shoes! **PLEASE REMEMBER, STUDENTS WILL BE ON A FARM!**
4. Pack a raincoat or poncho (and warm clothes if applicable). They are essential because classes are held rain or shine.

Required Items for 2 night/3 day stay:

(Please adjust for longer/shorter stay)

- Reusable Water Bottle**
- Raincoat or poncho (A MUST!!)
- Sleeping bag/sheets & blankets (single)
- Hat or visor
- 4 Pair of socks
- 3 Underwear
- 3 Shirts
- 2 Pants (Great protection from grasses/bugs)
- 1-2 Shorts
- Jacket (for cool evenings)
- Heavy shirt (sweatshirt)
- Pajamas
- Towel & washcloth
- Laundry bag
- Toiletries
- Pillow
- Sunscreen
- 2 pairs old sneakers/boots (1 to get wet and farmy, 1 to hike and play)

- Small backpack

COOL WEATHER ADDITIONS:

Wool and synthetic clothing work best
Plan to layer so you can shed layers

- Coat
- Long underwear
- Warm hat
- Gloves
- Thick socks

Not Allowed at McDowell Farm School:

- Electronics
- Additional food/candy/snacks
- Weapons of any kind
- DEET bug sprays

OPTIONAL ITEMS:

- Camera
- Flashlight
- T-shirt/camp store money
- Bandana or cloth napkin

- Rain Boots
- Shower Sandals
- Natural, CREAM Bug Repellent



DAY GROUPS



McDowell Farm School Program Information

Thank you for spending a day with us on the farm! We hope that your visit to the farm is inspiring and leads you to developing an overnight program for you and your students. There is just so much to learn and experience at the McDowell Farm School. Because we offer such a variety of options, it is essential to narrow down and focus in on just a couple classes for a day. Students get more out of the program when given proper time to experience, question and reflect on their activities at the farm. Program details differ from those of overnight groups. Please read through the following information, then contact Program Staff. **All Lead Teachers will work closely with Program Staff to create a great day based on individual details for the school group.**

Arrival/Departure We suggest an arrival time of 8:30 am and departing after 2pm. Class options depend on the amount of time you have to spend on the farm for the day We will work together to build your trip based on those details.

Health Information We make every reasonable effort to ensure the health and safety of your students while they are here. Because we work so closely with food, we **request all Student Food Allergy** information be **emailed to Program Coordinator two weeks before the trip date.** Lead Teachers are responsible for all other health needs.

Cost The cost for a day at the farm is \$26/participant. For every **ten** students, **one** adult may come free. Additional adults may attend for **full price.** We can accommodate about 80 students per session. If your group exceeds this, we can divide them into multiple sessions. If you would like lunch to be included, the price per participant is \$33.

Chaperones MFS recommends a 1:8 adult/student ratio including teachers. Chaperones can help make your trip easier or, if not chosen properly, they can make it more difficult. It is worthwhile to take the time to choose your chaperones carefully.

Meals Many schools bring sack lunches for day programs. Lunch can also be provided through McDowell at an additional cost of \$7.00/person. If taking our Farm to Table class, please discuss ahead of time with Program Coordinator the potential for incorporating that food into their meal while planning your program. Special dietary needs can usually be accommodated with advance notice and planning.

Our Staff Our experienced staff works with you throughout the entirety of your program. We plan, teach and supply materials for all activities and classes. Our caring, professional instructors are trained in our student-centered approach to education and lead all classes with a maximum ratio of 12:1. **Please divide your students into Farm Crews and email to Program Coordinator two weeks before the trip date.**

Making a Reservation To make a reservation, please contact the Farm School Director.

Cancellation Policy An accurate count of student participants is due at least 60 days prior to your scheduled trip date in order to be fair to all schools. **Once the 60 day deadline has passed, the school is responsible for a minimum payment of 25% of the number of reserved student participants if the trip is cancelled.** The student number is based on the most recent numbers given to McDowell Farm School from the lead teacher of the trip.

DAY GROUP McDowell Farm School Program Contract

EMAIL to farmschool@campmcdowell.com or fax to 205-221-3454 Attn: Farm School Coordinator

Please mail or fax this contract **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** prior to your visit.

Page 1 of 2

School: _____ Reserved dates: _____

Lead Teacher: _____ Grade(s): _____

Other School Contact: _____ Principal _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

School Phone:(____) _____ Fax:(____) _____ Cell Phone: (____) _____

E-mail: _____ School Nurse: _____

Best way to contact (circle one): School Phone / Cell Phone / Email Best Time to Contact: _____

Arrival time: _____ (8:30 suggested) Departure time: _____ (2:00pm)

How will your group be arriving?_(#’s if known) _____ Bus(es) _____ Car(s)

STUDENTS: # of boys : _____ # of girls: _____ Total # of STUDENTS: _____

*ADULTS: # of men: _____ # of women: _____ Total # of ADULTS: _____

*Please include ALL Teachers & Chaperones in the Adult numbers TOTAL #: _____

FARM CREWS: _____

(10-12 students/group)

Please select meal option:

____ Sack Lunch

____ \$7 McDowell Meal

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FARM SCHOOL: Assist with pre-trip planning; provide complete educational programming; inform participants of their responsibilities, camp rules and emergency procedures; clean and maintain facilities and grounds; and provide a safe and wholesome atmosphere.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LEAD TEACHER: Make a reservation, submit confirmation fee and return contract; arrange transportation; arrange for one physically-able chaperone for each field group; communicate with students, parents and chaperones about the trip; collect fees; email/fax field crew lists; participate in the program with chaperones and students; and submit final payment.

DAMAGE: McDowell reserves the right to send home any child who becomes ill, destroys property, behaves aggressively or takes any other action detrimental to other students or the program. The school will be responsible for providing transportation in such cases, and for any damage to the facilities and equipment. No refunds will be made under these conditions. **The Farm School cannot be held responsible for loss or damage to property brought to McDowell. Please encourage students to leave valuables and large amounts of cash at home.**

INVOICE: On the day of your trip to McDowell Farm School, we will give you an invoice for the balance of your payment. **Payment is due within 30 days of your trip dates.**

I agree to the terms of this contract and agree that my group will abide by all McDowell policies.

Signature of Lead Teacher

Date

****PLEASE complete the next page.....**

DAY GROUP Program Contract: Class Options

Staff can work with you to select the additional classes, topics, ideas, or projects that best fit the needs of your students. Please reference the Curriculum Guide for more detailed class information, then **call/email us anytime to build your program**. Day programs are flexible and planned based on amount of time available for the day. We want to work to make the best program possible!

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farm Fauna | <input type="checkbox"/> Big, Bug World | <input type="checkbox"/> SustainAbility |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farm to Table (2hrs needed) | <input type="checkbox"/> Nature Journaling | <input type="checkbox"/> Hard at Work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plant It, Earth | <input type="checkbox"/> A Wilderness Transformed | <input type="checkbox"/> Farm Ecology |

Group Profile

The following information will help the staff have a better understanding of the needs of your group.

Have any of your teachers and chaperones attended the Farm School before? _____

Have any of your students attended the Farm School before? _____ If so, how many? _____

How would you characterize your school? (Choose all that apply)

- Private Public Religious Affiliation Open classroom
 Self-contained classroom Students move from class to class Block Schedule
 Below grade level Above grade level At grade level Urban Suburban Rural

Other:

Does your school have an outdoor garden/classroom? If so, what is your students' participation in that program?

What specific terms, ideas, topics would you like emphasized during your Farm School Program?

Please tell us a bit about the community your school comes from and how the students learn, interact, and relate to each other.

Day Group Farm Crew Assignment List School _____

**Please email or fax to Farm School Coordinator 2 Weeks Prior to Trip*

farmschool@campmcdowell.com fax 205.221.3454

IF YOU CREATE A DIGITAL FILE FOR THESE LISTS (EXCEL, ETC.) PLEASE SEND THAT INSTEAD!

Assign 10 to 12 students and at least 1 adult to each farm crew. Students will attend all classes with their crew. If you are bringing multiple grade levels, group by grade level.

***** One adult must be with a Farm Crew at all times.*****

Farm Crew # _____ Farm Crew # _____ Farm Crew # _____

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 4 | 4 | 4 |
| 5 | 5 | 5 |
| 6 | 6 | 6 |
| 7 | 7 | 7 |
| 8 | 8 | 8 |
| 9 | 9 | 9 |
| 10 | 10 | 10 |
| 11 | 11 | 11 |
| 12 | 12 | 12 |

Adults (teachers & Chaperones) Adults (teachers & Chaperones) Adults (teachers & Chaperones)

- | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|
| 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 3 | 3 | 3 |

McDowell Farm School

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DAY GROUP STUDENT LETTER AND PACKING LIST

Dear Parent or Guardian,

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“Why are the eggs different colors? Why are they warm? Are there baby chicks inside?”

Each question provides the opportunity to not only **deepen their science understanding**, but to connect their knowledge to new situations.

During a day on the farm, students **apply classroom concepts to the natural world**. Students better understand **how their food grows** and the resources it takes to provide food when they get their hands in the dirt and **work with their classmates on projects**. Our classroom extends beyond the walls of our teaching kitchen, beyond our 40 acres of gardens and barns, and even beyond the 1100 acres of forests, streams and canyons of McDowell! **We make the world our classroom and our place to discover!**

Listed below are a **few important items worth emphasizing** about your child’s upcoming visit to **ensure their safety and comfort**. Please read the information below carefully.

Appropriate Clothing: Living and learning on a farm can be messy business and because **we spend most of our time outdoors (even in the rain and cold)**, please be sure to pack appropriate clothing for your child. In truly inclement weather, we have ample indoor teaching space.

Parents and Students, please be sure to

- Bring OLD clothes and shoes! You will get dirty, wet and muddy.
- Pack a raincoat or poncho (and warm clothes if applicable). They are essential because classes are held rain or shine.
- Bring a water bottle.
- Pack a lunch if necessary!

Suggested Items

- Sunscreen
- Hat or Visor
- Small backpack to carry everything
- Rain Boots
- Cool weather clothing for appropriate weather conditions: coat, warm hat, thick socks
- Camera
- Flashlight

If you have any questions or concerns about our program, personnel, or facilities, please contact me directly. I am more than happy to take your calls!

Andrew Shea, Director
farmschooldirector@campmcdowell.com
205.387.1806 ext. 106

