OLLIN FARMS

Youth Summer Classes

Schedule and Curriculum

All of our education classes follow the same basic schedule, regardless of the age of the participants. The type of activities and depth of the lessons differ between age groups. The classes are designed in such a way that students can return year after year and build on their depth of understanding and implementation of sustainable agricultural concepts. The day starts with a morning dialogue, which involves asking questions and getting the students to start thinking about concepts that will be introduced throughout the day. Learning time precedes farm activities and is where we describe how and why our farm performs each specific activity the way that it does and prepares the students to perform the activity themselves. Farm activities include such things as planting seeds, cycling un-used plants as food to the animals, identifying and supporting vegetables in the field, and harvesting. Each activity gets its own dedicated lesson and time with the goal as the week goes on for the kids to recognize common themes and relationships that ties the entire farm together as a connected ecosystem. The afternoon dialogue and review is a chance to reflect on the day's lessons and perform an activity such as a journal, craft, or game that reinforces the concepts learned that day.

Weekly Schedule

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
9:00am	Arrival/ sign in.	Arrival/ sign in.	Arrival/ sign in.	Arrival/ sign in.
9:15	Morning Dialogue	Morning Dialogue	Morning Dialogue	Morning Dialogue
9:30				
9:45	Learning Time 1a	Learning Time 2a	Learning Time 3a	Learning Time 4a
10:00	Farm Activity 1a	Farm Activity 2a	Farm Activity 3a	Farm Activity 4a
10:15				
10:30	Water/Restroom	Water/Restroom	Water/Restroom	Water/Restroom
10:45	Farm Activity 1a	Farm Activity 2a	Farm Activity 3a	Farm Activity 4a
11:00				
11:15	Water/Restroom	Water/Restroom	Water/Restroom	Water/Restroom
11:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
11:45				
12:00	Learning Time 1b	Learning Time 2b	Learning Time 3b	Learning Time 4b
12:15	Farm Activity 1b	Farm Activity 2b	Farm Activity 3b	Farm Activity 4b
12:30				
12:45				
1:00	Water/Restroom	Water/Restroom	Water/Restroom	Water/Restroom
1:15	Afternoon Dialogue/Review	Afternoon Dialogue/Review	Afternoon Dialogue/Review	Afternoon Dialogue/Review
1:30				
1:45	Pack-Up	Pack-Up	Pack-Up	Pack-Up
2:00pm	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal

Learning Activity	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
a	**Annual Crops-** Colorado's growing season	**Perennial Crops–** planting for the future	**Weeds and Bugs-** their function in the ecosystem	**Cover crops and farm animals-** nature's fertility
b	**Soil and Seeds-** the planting process	**Garden layout and transplanting-** setting up a diversified garden	**Caring for plants-** water, nutrition, and solar energy	**Harvest-** nutrition and 5 Colors on your plate
Example of daily dialogue questions for different age groups	**Ages 6-8:** *What vegetables grow in this climate?* **Ages 9-11:** *How does season effect the types of vegetables grown?* **Ages 12-15:** *What tools are available to help farmers extend their growing season?*	**Ages 6-8:** *How are perennial and annual plants different?* **Ages 9-11:** *How does garden design change with types of crops grown?* **Ages 12-15:** *What effects does different cropping system have on soil biology?*	**Ages 6-8:** *What are the role of weeds and insects on the farm?* **Ages 9-11:** *How do different farming systems deal with weeds and bugs?* **Ages 12-15:** *What does the presence of weeds and bugs tell us about the health of our soil and plants?*	**Ages 6-8:** *What happens to waste products on the farm?* **Ages 9-11:** *What is the difference between on-farm and off-farm inputs?* **Ages 12-15:** *How does nutrient management lead to healthier food, how can we measure it?*

***Exploring Sustainable Agriculture* - Ages 6-8**

Teaching strategies for this age group focuses on lots of hands-on exploration that will enhance the discovery of their senses. Kids will experience team work, learning to get along with peers, making observations, classifying, comparing and contrasting, sensory experiences, categorizing, and developing descriptive vocabulary.

***Implementing Sustainable Practices* - Ages 9-11**

Teaching strategies for this age group focuses on team work, cooperation, problem solving through inquiry-based learning, experiments, hypothesizing, testing and evaluating ideas. Youth will be able to share what interests, talents, abilities and skills they develop during the farm activities.

***The Science of Sustainability*- Ages 12-15**

Teaching strategies for this age group focuses on introducing higher level concepts and gathering scientific data. Youth will be able to reflect, share observations that they made, and describe what they learned during farm activities. Youth will also develop strategies to carry the lessons in sustainability over into their daily lives.