

Mills Apple Farm

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EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Thank you for planning a visit to Mills Apple Farm!

The following information will help make your trip a more pleasant and safe experience. We have based these guidelines on years of experience and hundreds of children visiting the farm.

Before you come:

- Cost is per child participating. Payment at the time of the program is required. There is no charge for teachers or parents, but they pay for any apples they choose to pick.
- We appreciate nametags on the children, designed so that we can read them, as they enable us to individually interact with each child. We recognize the concern some have with nametags on children in a public place. Please be assured that this is a private farm and that the children are safe here.
- You are welcome to plan to have lunch or a snack on the grounds. This often helps you gain flexibility in developing your schedule. While there are a limited number of picnic tables, we do have plenty of grass and shady areas for picnicking. Blankets to sit on are suggested. There is also a large concrete dance floor that works well for lunches and games. You might want to suggest that store bought apples not be included in the lunches, as the children will have just picked a bag of tree-ripened ones!
- If parents or teachers want to take home some of our delicious fresh pies, we encourage them to place an advance order. Without an order, bakery goods are first come, first serve. We recommend placing your order two days prior to your visit. There will be time to pick up pre-ordered items after you have enjoyed the full educational benefits of our program.
- Please discuss the following Apple Farm Rules with your class before your visit with us:
 1. Please don't chase the birds or the animals. They are living creatures like us and we should respect them.
 2. Fingers are tasty treats for some animals and some birds – be aware.
 3. No jumping in the maze. We would like the floors to last a long time.
 4. Have fun!

The day of the tour:

- Print a copy of the map and directions to the farm. This will help to make your trip to the farm a quick and pleasant one. The map also has our phone number on it in case there is any confusion along the way or you are running late. A copy may also be distributed to each parent who is driving if your group is coming in cars.
- Please keep the children seated on the bus until after the bus is parked per directions by our greeter. We have learned that unloading in front of the Market creates traffic congestion and unsafe conditions for the students.

- We may elect to separate or combine groups in order to provide the best possible experience for the children. Please follow directions given to you by our greeter.
- As the group contact person, please proceed to the market to pay for the number of children you have present. If each teacher pays for his or her class, make sure they know to come to the market. Handling payment when you arrive allows you to enjoy the rest of your visit.
- We plan our program to take about 1½ hours total. This usually includes time for the children to play in our children's play area, and to visit with and feed the animals. It is okay for children to run and play after the tours. We have yet to lose a child; we pride ourselves on this being a fun, carefree day for the children that will enable them to experience the joys of being on a farm.

After your visit:

- We will make pictures available of your class on our Internet website. We recognize that some schools have concerns with security. Teachers will be given instructions on how to access their class' picture at the time of the tour. Teachers will then be able to relay that information to interested parents. There will be no link from our website to the pictures that someone browsing on the Internet could use. We feel that this will allow the fun of the tour so be shared in a safe manner with those involved.

If you have any questions, please feel free to give us a call at 618-887-4732. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Sherry (Mills) Chase
Educational Program Coordinator