



THE
JK COMMUNITY
FARM

Educational Field Trips

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We are passionate about connecting students to their food and the farmers who grow it. We believe it is the foundation for food education, building a lifelong commitment to food justice and empowering healthy eating. The JK Community Farm offers educational field trips for students to explore the world outside of their classroom. They understand the connection between healthy soil, healthy plants, and healthy people. Students gain confidence in making healthy food choices.



Our intent is for every child who visits the farm to be able to answer the following five questions:

Where does my food come from?

What's a farmer's job?

Why are farmers important?

Why is fresh, healthy food important?

How does a seed become a plant?

Students explore subjects such as soil and compost, edible plant parts, plant life cycles, pollination and pest control, the benefits of organic and chemical-free food, and nutrition. Students learn about composting and soil science. They understand the connection between healthy soil, healthy plants, and healthy people. Students gain confidence in making healthy food choices.



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Our farm-based education programs come in a variety of structures. The JK Community Farm education programs can serve all ages and locales from Pre-K through 12, university students, and adults.

Meet the farmer visits, Mike Smith (All Ages)

Meet the Farmer visits are a unique way for student to engage with the food system. Research shows that when children have a better understanding of where fruits and vegetables come from, they are more likely to eat these healthy foods. JK Community Farm Farmer Mike Smith loves joining teachers and students in their classrooms to teach the plant cycle and help them feel a stronger connection to their food and community.

Field Trips to the JK Community Farm (All Ages)

Students join us at the JK Community Farm to learn about sustainable vegetable production. Field trips include a tour of the farm and a farm activity. Field trips can be tailored to meet specific interests and lesson plans.

Young Farmers: Grades Pre-K – 2nd

75-90 minutes

Using the five senses to build observation skills and explore herb and vegetable production at the farm. Students discover edible plant parts and learn why eating plants is a part of a healthy diet.

Sprouts: Grades K-3

90 minutes

Explore the hidden side of plants! Students examine different kinds of seeds and roots, and begin to explore the relationship between seeds, soil, and the plants we eat. They will understand that everyone can grow food!

Growing Seasons: Grades 3-5

90 minutes

Step into the shoes of a farmer, learn about seasonality and Virginia's climate. Make connections between what you see on the supermarket shelves and what is ready for harvest in our area. We believe that is important for students to have an understanding of the food system and what it takes.

Soil and Compost Grades 3-8

90 minutes

Many organisms and decomposers are part of a soil food web as soil affects all life on earth. Students explore the farm and discover the world of soils and compost. They will learn why decomposition is important and how we can build healthy soil.

Pollination Picnic: Grades 4-8

90 minutes

Learn about different methods of pollination, and observed pollinating insects at the farm. Discover the importance of agriculture and in nature. Learn how "cover crops" can fight erosion.

Food Justice: Grades 6-12

90 minutes

Students will discuss nutrition, food access, food miles, and food systems. We will tour the farm, plant seeds or seedlings, and discuss the health benefits and environmental impacts of different food choices. Students deepen their understanding of the food system and develop their skills as leaders, food advocates, and community members. They are encouraged to participate in service learning projects in the garden, connecting to the community directly by volunteering.

Service Learning (Ages 10+)

"Service learning" is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, strengthen communities, and encourage civic responsibility. Students will gain a better understanding of where food comes from, how it reaches their plate, the importance of eating organic, and chemical-free. Along with applying equal focus to both learning and service, it is important for students to also gain a greater understanding of who they are helping and why. We want to teach a younger generation that they can be agents of social change and meet genuine community needs. We want students to realize that as an individual, they can help end food insecurity and promote food justice. Whatever their passion may be, they can make an impact in the lives of others. With service learning, students will have a strengthened understanding of human difference and human commonality, while gaining a better understanding of course content. -Students will engage in tasks such as planting and harvesting food for people in need, while learning about soil and compost, edible plant parts, plant life cycles, pollination, and pest control.