

Farm and Field Trips

Learning an appreciation for our food, the Earth, and the millions of living things that our lives depend upon.

We invite your class, homeschool group, scout troop, or any group of 10 or more children for a guided experience on the farm. Experience first-hand the things that amaze us every day; the smell of the woods, newborn animals just standing up, the taste of a freshly picked tomato, and all the other wonders of nature.

School groups: A trip to Stratford can easily fit into your curriculum. For the younger grades, we are ideally suited to learning the basics about plants and animals and for those first experiences in the woods. Older students will learn about food chains, cycles, and biodiversity. If you have a special area of study you'd like us to cover, ask and we'll see if we can suit your needs.

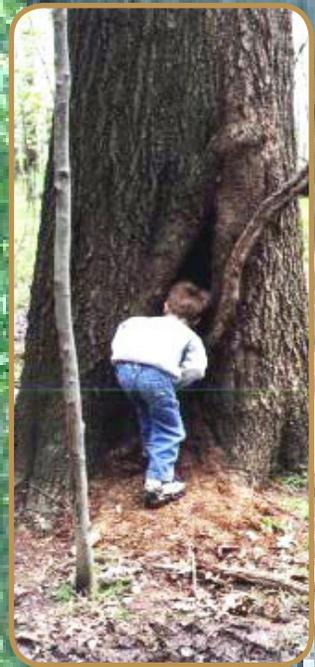
Also included with your field trip is a visit from a Stratford staff member, in your classroom, prior to your trip to the farm. Dependent on the age level, we may turn your students into apple trees or take a trip through the life cycle of a cow pie, or explore the Earth cycles that allow us to live. The pre-visit lasts 30 minutes to an hour, depending on your schedule.

School group trips run Wed., Thurs. and Friday mornings. Pre-visits are scheduled on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Cost: \$3.00 per person, per hour. (You are welcome to stay and have lunch, during or after your tour, at no additional cost.)

Teachers are free!

*"I saw a dead frog. It was turning into soil."
- preschool student from Smokey Row*



Quotes From Teachers

"Very well presented! Children were so thoroughly engaged all morning. They wanted to stay longer!"

- Scioto Darby Elementary

"As we reviewed our visit, it was obvious that each child walked away from the experience fulfilled. Having been divided into 3 groups they each had slightly different perceptions but they really learned a lot. This was a perfect first field trip!"

- Montessori Children's House

"My 'city kids' love the barn and the animals. Going to the various environments- pond, woods, garden- and talking about the ways we can best take care of them is very effective."

- Chapman School



Additional Information

Classes are divided into small groups for ease of travel and a more intimate visit with the animals. Therefore every group's experience will be different. Activities vary depending on season and daily farm happenings.

Classes are responsible for payment of monies on or before the field trip date. A one-week notification is needed if there is a significant change in the number of students attending. Each class is allowed 5 absentees. You will be responsible for payment of the remaining reserved number.

Minimum number of children in a group is 10, maximum is 60. If less than 10 children attend, you will be still be responsible for payment for 10 children.

Because of our small size, programs fill up fast. Please call early to reserve your date!

Why is a Visit to Stratford Important?

Nature Deficit Disorder, a term coined by author Richard Louv, is a condition that has evolved over the last 30 years as childhood has moved indoors. Studies show that the large amount of sedentary, plugged-in time is affecting children's health and well being. Humans weren't designed to exist indoors. Kids especially need to be outside in nature.

Recent research links children's physical and mental health, as well as cognitive functioning and creativity, directly to experiences in nature. Give your students the best—an opportunity to learn and discover the wonders of our natural world!



Though a field trip at Stratford meets many academic standards, there are also many experiences taking place that cannot be measured or tested. These connections may be the seeds that grow into future relationships between the child and the natural world. They are equally, if not more important, than testable standards, helping to develop the child into a healthy, intelligent and ecologically-conscious adult.

Stratford Ecological Center



Stratford is a 236-acre certified organic farm. Chickens, cows, pigs, sheep, goats and a llama call this place home and provide

healthy meat and eggs for our neighbors. A children's garden and greenhouses grow produce for pick-your-own sales and for the People In Need food bank in Delaware.

The forest of Stratford protects 95 acres as a State Nature Preserve. Farmland development rights have been donated to the Ohio Department of Agriculture, further protecting this oasis of wilderness in the fastest growing county in the state.

The property houses a pond, creek, buttonbush swamps, historic cemetery, maple sugar house, and 5 miles of hiking trails.

In addition to school field trips, we also offer homeschool programs, scout visits, family programs, internships, and extensive adult education programming.

Volunteer opportunities are available.

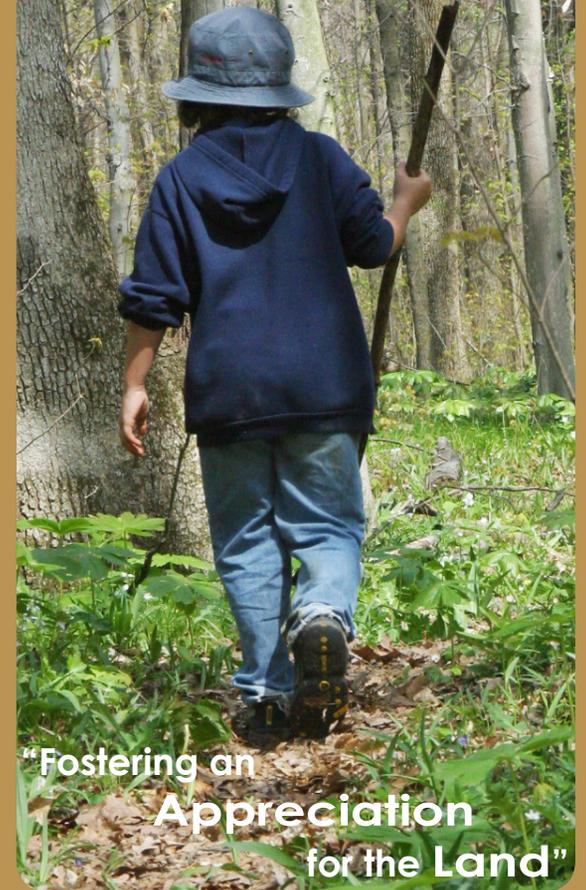
Stratford is open to the public Mondays through Fridays, 9am-5pm and Saturdays, 9am-1pm.

Check our web site for more information or to get involved.

www.StratfordEcologicalCenter.org



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"Fostering an
Appreciation
for the Land"