

Pactamere Farm Jr. Farmer Summer Camp

Parent Handbook – Summer 2026



Welcome to Pactamere Farm Jr. Farmer Summer Camp

Welcome to Pactamere Farm Jr. Farmer Summer Camp. We are excited to welcome your family to our summer program and grateful for the opportunity to share our working farm with your child.

Summer Day Camp at Pactamere Farm is designed for children ages 4–12 who love animals, the outdoors, and hands-on learning. Campers experience authentic farm life while building confidence, responsibility, and a deeper appreciation for nature and animals.

Our week-long camp sessions run Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM and offer a variety of real farm chores, structured outdoor play, creative projects, and animal interaction. Campers will learn about the day-to-day operations of a working farm through activities such as caring for our chickens, goats, alpacas, pigs, sheep and cow.

In addition to daily chores and outdoor exploration, campers may also:

- Tend to seasonal gardens of vegetables, fruits, and flowers
- Learn simple farm-to-table concepts
- Make goat milk cheese or ice cream
- Create a one-of-a-kind goat milk soap bar or felt with alpaca fiber
- Build small birdhouses or other simple projects
- Paint flowerpots and participate in themed crafts
- Enjoy animal-assisted movement such as goat yoga

Campers should expect to get “down and dirty” as they explore mud, gardens, animals, and outdoor farm fun all week long!

Because camp takes place on a working farm, campers are exposed to live animals, uneven ground, outdoor conditions, farm tools, and other inherent risks associated with agricultural environments. Campers must be able to follow directions, remain with their group, and behave safely at all times.

This Parent Handbook outlines camp policies, procedures, expectations, financial obligations, limitations, and authority. Parents and guardians are required to read this handbook in its entirety prior to registering. Enrollment in camp constitutes agreement to all policies contained in this handbook.

Camp Philosophy and Program Scope

Pactamere Farm Jr. Farmer Summer Camp operates with the following core principles:

- Safety is the foundation of all decisions
- Respect for animals, peers, staff, and property is required
- Campers are encouraged to take responsibility for themselves and their actions
- Camp promotes cooperation, kindness, leadership, and community
- Camp provides an authentic farm experience

This camp is not:

- A therapeutic program
- A medical or mental health program
- A behavioral intervention program
- A special-needs or adaptive camp

Camp staff are not trained to provide one-on-one behavioral, therapeutic, or medical care. Campers must be able to participate safely in a group environment with reasonable independence.

Camp Dates, Sessions, and Hours

2026 Camp Season

Pactamere Farm Jr. Farmer Summer Camp operates for 11 weekly sessions during Summer 2026!

PACTAMERE FARM — SUMMER CAMP 2026 CALENDAR

Staff Training (No Camp): June 1–5

WEEK 1: June 8–12 — The Great Outdoors

WEEK 2: June 15–19 — Planting & Gardening (Pumpkin Harvest)

WEEK 3: June 22–26 — Caring for Animals & Veterinary Care

WEEK 4: June 29–July 3 — Patriotic Week (Red, White & Farm Blue)

WEEK 5: July 6–10 — Life on a Working Farm

WEEK 6: July 13–17 — Farm Food Week (Garden to Table)

WEEK 7: July 20–24 — Building, Creativity & Farm Engineering

WEEK 8: July 27–31 — Mad Scientist Week (Farm Experiments)

WEEK 9: August 3–7 — Farm Animal Olympics

WEEK 10: August 10–14 — Survivor Week (Farm Challenge)

WEEK 11: August 17–21 — Celebration & Reflection (Farm Luau)

Camp Days

- Monday through Friday

Daily Camp Hours

- 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Arrival Window

- Campers may arrive between 8:10 AM and 8:30 AM
- All campers must be checked in by 8:30 AM

Timely arrival helps maintain schedules and group activities. Repeated late arrivals may require a discussion with camp leadership to determine the best path forward.

Camp Structure, Age Groups & Daily Experience

Campers are grouped by age:

- Ages 4–6
- Ages 7–9
- Ages 10–12

Groups remain separate for most activities. Certain large-group activities may combine groups under direct staff supervision. Older campers may assist in mentoring younger campers during these activities.

About Our Farm Camp

A Day at Pactamere Farm

Pactamere Farm Jr. Farmer Summer Camp offers a unique, hands-on farm experience where children learn, explore, and grow through meaningful outdoor activities on a working farm. Our program is designed to balance structure and creativity while encouraging curiosity, confidence, responsibility, and teamwork.

In addition to daily farm chores, animal interaction, outdoor play, and group games, campers enjoy a variety of special farm-inspired activities throughout the summer. These activities are woven into our weekly focus areas and adjusted based on age, weather, and camper engagement.

Special activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Tie-dye projects
- Goat yoga and mindful movement with animals
- Candle making
- Goat soap felting using alpaca and goat fiber
- Birdhouse building and simple woodworking projects
- Ice cream making and farm-to-table food experiences

These activities are designed to be age-appropriate, hands-on, and experiential, allowing campers to try new skills, express creativity, and connect more deeply with farm life.

Because Pactamere Farm is an active agricultural environment, activities may change or be modified to prioritize safety, animal welfare, weather conditions, and overall camp flow. While not every activity is guaranteed each week, every camper will experience a rich and engaging farm-based program during their time at camp.

Each camp day follows a consistent rhythm while allowing flexibility for weather, animal needs, and camper engagement.

- Morning Meeting & Team Building

Each day begins with a morning meeting where campers review the schedule, discuss farm safety expectations, participate in team-building games, and set positive goals for the day.

- Farm Chores & Animal Interaction

Campers participate in daily age-appropriate farm chores such as feeding animals, refilling water buckets, collecting eggs, and cleaning animal areas under supervision. Animal interaction is a central part of the camp experience.

- Gardening & Nature Activities

Campers may participate in gardening projects, planting, watering, harvesting, and learning about soil, plants, and ecosystems.

- Games, Exploration & Scavenger Hunts

Daily programming includes group games, cooperative challenges, scavenger hunts, and outdoor exploration tied to weekly themes.

- Swimming & Water Play

Swimming and water play are offered when weather and staffing allow and follow strict safety procedures (see Pool Safety section).

- Arts, Crafts & Creative Projects

Campers participate in farm-themed crafts, art projects, and creative design activities.

What Campers Should Bring & Wear Each Day Required Daily Items

- Backpack labeled with camper's name
- Nut-free lunch
- Water bottle (labeled)
- Snack(s)
- Sunscreen (applied before arrival when possible)
- Swimsuit and towel
- Bug spray

Clothing & Footwear

- Closed-toe shoes (required daily)
- Comfortable clothes that can get dirty
- Weather-appropriate clothing
- Hat for sun protection (recommended)

Please Do Not Bring

- Toys
- Electronics
- Money
- Valuable or sentimental items

Weekly Camp Sessions & Themes—Summer 2026

Each week of camp features a Weekly Focus Area that guides activities, projects, games, and learning experiences. While each week highlights a different focus, all camp sessions include daily farm chores, animal interaction, outdoor play, group games, crafts, swimming or water play, and hands-on exploration appropriate for each age group.

WEEK 1 — June 8–12, 2026

Theme: The Great Outdoors

Campers explore the farm, learn routines, meet animals, play outdoor games, and build friendships while easing into summer.

WEEK 2 — June 15–19, 2026

Theme: Planting & Gardening — Pumpkin Harvest

Hands-on gardening week where campers plant pumpkins for fall harvest and learn how soil, watering, and garden care work together.

WEEK 3 — June 22–26, 2026

Theme: Caring for Animals & Veterinary Care

Campers learn about animal wellness, feeding routines, enrichment, and how veterinarians keep farm animals healthy and thriving.

WEEK 4 — June 29–July 3, 2026

Theme: Patriotic Week — Red, White & Farm Blue

Celebrate summer with patriotic crafts, themed games, outdoor fun, and safe bottle rocket launches leading into the July 4th weekend.

WEEK 5 — July 6–10, 2026

Theme: Life on a Working Farm

Daily chores, teamwork, and problem-solving as campers learn how a real working farm operates from morning to afternoon.

WEEK 6 — July 13–17, 2026

Theme: Farm Food Week — From Garden to Table

Farm-to-table fun with cooking projects, taste tests, food scavenger hunts, and learning how fruits, veggies, and herbs grow.

WEEK 7 — July 20–24, 2026

Theme: Building, Creativity & Farm Engineering

From birdhouses to simple structures, campers design and build creative projects using real materials to boost confidence and imagination.

WEEK 8 — July 27–31, 2026

Theme: Mad Scientist Week — Farm Experiments!

Hands-on experiments and curiosity-driven exploration inspired by farm life, plants, animals, and the natural environment.

WEEK 9 — August 3–7, 2026

Theme: Farm Animal Olympics

Farm-inspired sports, relays, and friendly competition focusing on teamwork, movement, creativity, and good sportsmanship.

WEEK 10 — August 10–14, 2026

Theme: Survivor Week — Farm Challenge

Campers form “tribes” and compete in obstacle courses, puzzles, relays, and challenges to earn points and prizes.

WEEK 11 — August 17–21, 2026

Theme: Celebration & Reflection — Farm Luau!

End-of-summer celebration featuring awards, ice cream, friendship reflections, and a festive luau-style party honoring our Junior Farmers.

***NOTE —— Themes may be adjusted due to weather

Camp Shirt & Identification Policy

Each camper receives a camp T-shirt. We ask that Campers wear or bring their shirts on Friday. Wearing the shirt through the week is optional.

All campers are required to wear a camp-issued lanyard with name tag and group designation at all times during camp hours.

Lanyards will be turned in to their counselor at the end of each camp day and reissued each morning upon arrival.

Staffing, Supervision & Ratios

Counselor-to-camper ratios:

- Ages 4–6: 1 Lead Counselor per 6–8 campers
- Ages 7–9: 1 Lead Counselor per 8–10 campers

- Ages 10–12: 1 Lead Counselor per 10–12 campers Each group has at least one 18+ Lead Counselor. Junior Counselors and Counselors-in-Training (CITs) assist but do not count toward ratios. Floating adult supervision is always present.

Staff Qualifications & Training

All staff are background checked, First Aid certified, and trained in supervision, farm safety, animal handling, emergency procedures, and behavior management.

A certified lifeguard will be present at all times during pool activities.

Healthy Camper Policy

Campers must arrive healthy and able to participate fully.

Campers must remain home if they have:

- Fever of 100.4°F or higher
- Vomiting or diarrhea within the previous 24 hours
- Symptoms of contagious illness
- Severe respiratory symptoms
- Unexplained rash

Campers may return only after being symptom-free for 24 hours without medication. Camp leadership has final authority regarding attendance.

Communicable Illness & Lice

Campers with communicable illness or active head lice may not attend until treated and cleared.

1. Medication Policy

All medications must be labeled, disclosed at registration, and accompanied by written instructions. Emergency medications must be provided by families.

Emergency Procedures & First Aid

Staff administer first aid, notify parents, and contact emergency services when necessary. Incident reports are completed.

Animal Interaction & Farm Safety

This is a working farm. Campers must follow staff instructions, treat animals gently, and wash hands after animal contact. Unsafe behavior toward animals may result in immediate dismissal.

Weather, Heat & Environmental Safety

Camp runs rain or shine. Activities may be modified due to extreme heat or weather. Hydration, shade, and rest breaks are enforced.

Swimming & Pool Safety Policy

- A certified lifeguard is present at all times when the pool is in use
- Pool depth is a maximum of 4 feet
- Parents must disclose swimming ability
- Campers may be required to complete a swim test
- Life vests are provided and required for campers who cannot swim or do not pass the swim test
- No diving, running, or rough play
- Lifeguard and staff instructions must be followed at all times

Camp reserves the right to restrict swimming participation for safety reasons.

Friday Awards Ceremony & Ice Cream Social

Each Friday afternoon, campers participate in an Awards Ceremony and Ice

Cream Social. Parents are welcome but attendance is not required.

Families should notify camp of dietary restrictions, including lactose intolerance or allergies. We will attempt to accommodate when possible.

Behavior Expectations

Campers must follow instructions, respect others, and use safe bodies and appropriate language.

Behavioral Disclosure Requirement

Parents must disclose all known behavioral concerns at registration. Failure to disclose may result in dismissal without refund.

Aggression & Unsafe Behavior

The camp is not equipped to manage physical aggression or violent behavior. Same-day dismissal may occur.

Behavior Escalation & Dismissal

Behavior concerns are documented and parents notified. Camp reserves the right to dismiss a camper at any time for safety reasons. Dismissals are non-refundable.

Accessibility & ADA Disclosure

Pactamere Farm is not ADA compliant and cannot accommodate needs beyond capacity.

Arrival & Dismissal Procedures

Campers must be signed in and out daily and released only to authorized individuals. Identification may be required.

Parent Responsibilities

Parents/guardians play a crucial role in ensuring a successful camp experience. Parent responsibilities include:

- Reading and understanding the Parent Handbook prior to camp
- Providing accurate and up-to-date medical, behavioral, and emergency information
- Disclosing all relevant medical, behavioral, emotional, or developmental concerns
- Ensuring timely daily drop-off and pick-up of their child
- Sending campers with required daily supplies (lunch, water bottle, clothing, etc.)
- Labeling personal belongings with the camper's name
- Keeping campers home when they are sick or unfit to participate
- Notifying camp staff of any changes in contact information or authorized pick-up persons
- Communicating respectfully with camp leadership regarding questions or concerns
- Reviewing camp expectations with their child prior to attendance
- Respecting camp policies, schedules, and safety procedures
- Honoring financial obligations, deadlines, and cancellation policies outlined in the handbook
- Supporting behavior expectations and acknowledging that unsafe behavior may result in dismissal

CAMP RESPONSIBILITIES

Pactamere Farm Jr. Farmer Summer Camp is committed to providing a safe, engaging, and developmentally appropriate experience for all campers. Our responsibilities include:

- Providing trained staff who supervise campers and lead activities
- Offering structured programming that supports learning, creativity, and outdoor exploration
- Maintaining a safe environment and enforcing safety rules
- Supporting positive peer interactions and cooperation

- Communicating with families regarding health, safety, behavior, and incidents
- Protecting the welfare of animals and teaching responsible animal handling
- Adjusting activities and schedules as needed for weather, safety, or operational needs
- Respecting individual differences and encouraging personal growth
- Maintaining accurate incident and injury documentation when needed

Counselor-in-Training (CIT) Leadership Program

The CIT program is a leadership development program for ages 13–15.

The CIT Program has a \$400 participation fee. CITs who successfully complete their full assigned session will receive a stipend of \$100 per week completed (maximum \$400) issued at the end of the session. Successful completion requires full attendance, adherence to behavioral and responsibility standards, and fulfillment of assigned duties. Failure to complete the full session, or dismissal from the program, will result in forfeiture of all or part of the stipend.

Sessions:

CIT Session 1 (4 weeks):

June 8 – July 3 (Weeks 1–4)

CIT Session 2 (4 weeks):

July 6 – July 31 (Weeks 5–8)

CIT Session 3 (3 weeks):

August 3 – August 21 (Weeks 9–11)

CITs assist counselors but do not supervise independently.

Families interested in learning more about the Counselor-in-Training program are encouraged to review the CIT Handbook / CIT Information Packet, which provides detailed information about eligibility, session dates, program expectations, fees, responsibilities, privileges, and training opportunities. Participation is limited, and space is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

After Camp Care

After-Camp Care

After-Camp Care is available from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM for an additional fee of \$20 per day or \$80 per week. After-Care sign-ups must be submitted at least 48 hours in advance. After-Care registration links and instructions will be included in the Welcome Packet sent prior to camp. Space is limited and offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Scholarship Application & Financial Assistance

Pactamere Farm partners with Pactamere Cares, our nonprofit organization, to help make camp accessible when possible. Families must submit a Scholarship Application Inquiry prior to registration. Funding is limited and typically partial.

For more information on scholarships and financial assistance, please email Kimberly Greene at info@pactamerecares.org.

Camp Tuition, Discounts, Deposits & Payment Policies

Weekly Tuition

- \$425 per camper, per week

Early Bird Discount

- Register by March 1, 2026
- Save \$25 per week, per camper
- May be combined only with sibling discounts

Sibling Discounts (Same Household)

- First sibling: full tuition
- Second sibling: \$20 off per week
- Third sibling: \$35 off per week

Deposits

- \$150 non-refundable deposit per camper, per session

Payment Plans

- Available through May 15, 2026
- All balances due by May 15, 2026

Late Registrations

- Registrations after May 15, 2026 must be paid in full

Cancellations & Refunds

- Deposits are non-refundable

- Cancellations 30+ days prior to June 1, 2026 receive a refund minus deposit
- Cancellations within 30 days of June 1, 2026 are nonrefundable
- Once a session begins, all fees are non-refundable

Session Changes

- \$25 administrative fee for all session changes
- Subject to availability

Parent Acknowledgment

PARENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT, AGREEMENT & MEDIA RELEASE

By signing below, I acknowledge and agree to the following:

I have read and understand the Pactamere Farm Jr. Farmer Summer Camp Parent Handbook in its entirety.

I understand that Pactamere Farm Jr. Farmer Summer Camp operates on an active working farm and involves inherent risks, including but not limited to interaction with animals, uneven terrain, outdoor conditions, water activities, and farm equipment.

I understand that this camp is not a therapeutic, medical, behavioral intervention, special-needs, or adaptive program, and that staff are not trained to provide one-on-one behavioral, therapeutic, or medical services.

I certify that I have fully and accurately disclosed all medical, behavioral, emotional, and developmental information relevant to my child's safe participation in camp.

I understand that failure to disclose relevant information may result in immediate dismissal from camp without refund.

I agree to comply with all camp policies, procedures, payment terms, behavior expectations, and dismissal policies outlined in the Parent Handbook.

I understand that camp leadership reserves the right to modify activities, schedules, or programming as needed for safety, animal welfare, weather, or operational reasons.

I understand that dismissals for safety or behavioral reasons are non-refundable.

I acknowledge that Pactamere Farm is not ADA compliant and cannot accommodate needs beyond the scope outlined in the Parent Handbook.

PHOTO & VIDEO RELEASE AND CAMP PHOTO SHARING

I understand that photographs and video recordings may be taken throughout the camp week during daily activities, farm experiences, and special events.

I grant permission for Pactamere Farm, Pactamere Farm LLC, Goat Yoga RVA, and Pactamere Cares Inc. to photograph and/or record my child during camp activities and to use my child's image, and likeness, for camp promotion and marketing, social media and website content, printed and digital materials, and educational or informational purposes.

I understand that camp photos are shared with families via a private Google Drive folder for each camp session.

I understand that access to the Google Drive folder is provided only to registered camp families.

I understand that photos are intended for personal family viewing only and are not professionally edited.

I understand that not every camper is guaranteed to appear in all photos.

I understand that photo folders are shared after the conclusion of each camp week and remain available for a limited period of time.

I understand that my child's name will not be used in connection with images.

I understand that no compensation is provided for the use of images.

PHOTO AND VIDEO PERMISSION (CHECK ONE)

- I grant permission for my child to be photographed and recorded as described above.
- I do NOT grant permission for my child to be photographed or recorded.

If permission is not granted, I understand that I must notify camp leadership in writing prior to the start of camp.

CAMPER INFORMATION

Camper Name(s):

Camp Session(s):

PARENT OR GUARDIAN INFORMATION

Parent or Guardian Name (Print):

Signature: _____

Date: _____

EMERGENCY AND INFORMATION CONFIRMATION

By signing above, I confirm that all medical, emergency contact, and behavioral information on file for my child is accurate and up to date.

FOR CAMP USE ONLY _____

Reviewed by: _____

Date: _____