



Welcome to Holly Hill Farm!

Dear Families,

We are so excited to meet your children and make them feel at home on the farm. Each week promises to be full of exploration, games, stories, getting dirty, and creating while growing all kinds of healthy produce. And, of course, there will be daily visits to the chickens, goats, and donkey!

We will all make sure that your children have the best and most memorable times. And as we get to know each child better, we will find ways to best connect to them and help them find their own magical paths through the farm and nature experience.

Attached to this email is a comprehensive guide to our policies and procedures during summer programs. Though some of these will be highlighted in this email, I hope that you will take the time to go through all aspects, which includes our health and safety plans, drop-off and pick-up, clothing, food, and cancellation policies.



HEALTH FORMS

We ask that everyone go into MyRec **ASAP** to check that they have uploaded updated health forms.

Health forms should be no older than 18 months from date of registered program.

Forms should show all vaccinations.

CHILDREN ARE NOT ALLOWED TO START PROGRAM UNTIL THE UPDATE HEALTH FORMS AND VACCINATIONS HAVE BEEN UPLOADED.



A.M. Schedule (9:00-1:00)

Both Garden Goats and Monarchs will have similar schedules and themes. However, they will rarely overlap and will meet your children where they are developmentally.

Each day begins with playtime during arrivals, which then moves to circle greetings, games, and previews. From that point, groups may go for exploratory theme walks on the farm and our neighboring trails. Most explorations will end with snacks and bathroom breaks. Later in the morning, each group may listen to a story, experiment, create, and play

more games. And built into every day is time to work in the gardens and visit the animals. Each day will end with lunch, games, and walks, as well as cleanup time.

Themes will rotate every week for a month and include Farm Animals, Pond Animals, Flowers and Pollinators, Compost and Decomposers, Fairies, Gnomes, and Trolls, Farmer's Market, and more. Each week will also end with a giant scavenger hunt!

Older groups – Adventurers, Cooking and Creativity, and Future Farmers – will follow similar schedules but will focus on activities centered on their weekly theme. For example, following a game or circle greeting, Adventures may learn how to use a compass one day and then begin testing their skills in the barnyard and later in the woods. During this time, they will also have snacks and games. Later, they will return for lunch and games like Ga-Ga Ball or time in the sprinkler (when especially hot).



P.M. Schedule (1:00-3:00)

For those who stay for the full day, they will have special projects, activities, and games that either connect to that day's focus or go in entirely different directions (like building birdhouses or making nests). Much of this will depend on the makeup of the groups, what they would like to do, the heat, and other factors.

We will always remain flexible and responsive to the group's needs, as well as the demands the weather may place on us.

For example, more breaks will be given in the shade during those really hot days, and activities will be modified.

Safety & Health

Speaking of those hot days, we watch the weather daily and hourly so that we are always prepared for what is coming. We ask that you also pay attention to the weather and the types of clothing your child should bring to the farm each day, knowing that they may occasionally be in the rain. This also includes being prepared with sunscreen and insect repellent. For more details about these and other safety and health policies, please read the attached document. **Though we don't apply sunscreen and insect repellent in the half-day program, we will do so for full-day children after lunch.**

Drop-Off & Pick-Up

To avoid long lines of cars, please see the guidelines, as well as the attached drop-off/pick-up and nameplate diagrams. Caregivers are asked to stay in their cars as staff help children out of the car and guide them to the correct location. Of course, there may be times when a child is reluctant. In such cases, we ask the caregiver to pull ahead and park.

Please also pay attention to the staggered drop-off and pick-up times in the attached guidelines. This will become especially important as we get closer to the end of June and for the rest of the summer.

Lunch & Snack

Every child, unless families have decided otherwise, will be staying for lunch. They will need to bring their own lunch, snacks, and reusable water bottles. Water can be refilled at the farm. No lunches should need refrigeration. Also, we are nut-free, so please check all ingredients before sending. Finally, lunch and snack trash will return home with each child.

Communication

Please feel free to contact us at any time via email or phone. If it is a non-urgent matter, please call the main number (781-383-1455) or email me (bruce@hollyhillfarm.org). If it is urgent, please call our onsite coordinator, Grayce Rose, at 339-364-5602, or Bruce Frost at 781-910-8124. Meredith Laban (executive director) can also be called at 617-784-7064 if no one else has responded to your call.

We will have your child's contact information with us at all times.

We will also send out an end-of-the-week newsletter or slideshow to give you a nice snapshot of what your child and others did throughout the week.

IMPORTANT NOTE

June 18, 2025, is my last day on the farm. As I move on to a new and exciting position elsewhere, I feel very fortunate to have been the education director and to be a part of all of your lives and the experiences you have had on the farm. Meredith Laban will become the main contact after I leave and until a new education director has been hired. Her contact information is listed above.

Thank You!

Again, we are so excited to welcome children back to the farm this summer and the joy they bring to all of us, including the animals. We hope to bring the same joy to them.

Please let us know of any needs or questions.

Sincerely,

Bruce Frost
Director of Education
Healthcare Supervisor
Friends of Holly Hill Farm