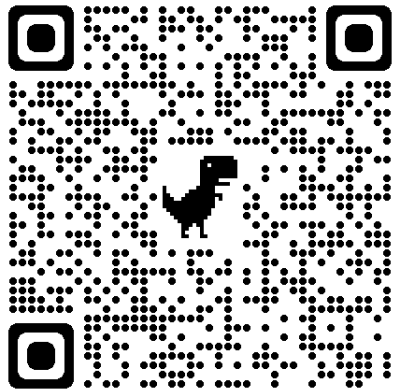


Great Kids Farm & Forest Camp

2024 FAMILY GUIDANCE & OVERVIEW



WELCOME Camp Families! Please:

- (1) review all information below, and then
- (2) complete our 2024 Great Kids Farm and Forest Camp Intake Form via QR code on left or <http://bit.ly/GKFcamperintake24>.

Bookmark this guidance! Open at www.friendsgkf.org/summercamp and click the star or 3 dots on your browser to keep it handy.

CAMP STAFF & CONTACT GUIDE

- **COMMUNICATION PRIOR TO CAMP:** Please direct all camp-related questions to L or Anne at **443-490-5697** or greatkidsfarmstaff@gmail.com.
- **COMMUNICATION DURING CAMP DAYS:** We will use the *Talking Points* app to send reminders to families. You can either download the *Talking Points* app or simply receive reminders as text messages. If you need to reach staff by phone, please call **443-490-5697**.
- The full camp team includes:
 - Camp Director: Laura "L" Menyuk – LNMenyuk@bcps.k12.md.us
 - Camp Administrator/Bus Lead: TBD (interim: Anne Rosenthal) – 443-490-5697
 - Camp Assistant Director: Ray Stieber
 - Camp Education Manager: Laura Genello – LSGenello@bcps.k12.md.us
 - 7 Camp Counselors (Baltimore City Public Schools rising 10-12th graders and Class of 2024 graduates)

About Great Kids Farm and Forest Camp (GKFFC): Great Kids Farm (GKF) is an educational farm operated by Baltimore City Public Schools' Department of Food & Nutrition Services. Launched in Summer 2021, GKFFC offers Baltimore City Public School students the opportunity to engage with nature and their food system in ways that reinforce scientific concepts from the school year, spark connections with the environment, and promote social and emotional well-being. Student participants spend most of the time outdoors, exploring 33 acres of forest, fields, and stream.

Great Kids Farm | 6601 Baltimore National Pike, Catonsville, MD

<http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/farm-school> | **443-490-5697** | greatkidsfarmstaff@gmail.com

Great Kids Farm & Forest Camp

2024 FAMILY GUIDANCE & OVERVIEW



Pick-Up, Drop-Off, Transportation, and Optional Aftercare

Each session has a different school hub where a free coach bus will pick up and drop off campers daily. On the Intake Form (<http://bit.ly/GKFcamperintake24>), you will have the opportunity to select your preference for morning bus, afternoon bus, both, or neither.

Approved pick-up for your child's safety: Whether picking up from the bus hub or from Great Kids Farm, all adults picking up students must be on the approved list.

- You can add anyone to the approved list at any time by contacting our camp administrator. Be sure that YOU are on your child's approved list!
- Adults check in with a staff member at pick-up before the child is released to their care.

ARRIVAL by car at Great Kids Farm:

- Morning drop-off window: **8:45am-9:00am**
- Address: 6601 Baltimore National Pike, Catonsville, MD 21228
- Or Google maps: "Great Kids Farm"
- **** Apple Maps sometimes messes up GKF location! If you do not use Google Maps, please put the full address in your GPS. ****

DEPARTURE by car from Great Kids Farm:

- Camp pick-up: **3pm-4:30pm**
- Free and optional after-care on the farm will be offered 3pm-4:30pm.

MORNING BUS TRANSPORTATION from school hub to Great Kids Farm:

- **Student drop-off for bus will vary slightly from school to school but will be between 8:10-8:25am.** Staff will confirm with families the exact bus departure time for each site prior to camp.
- The bus will not be able to wait for late students.
- Alison Pendrak, Camp Administrator, rides the bus with campers.

AFTERNOON BUS TRANSPORTATION from Great Kids Farm to school:

- **Students need to be picked up no later than 3:30pm** from the bus hub. No after-care is available at bus hubs.

Great Kids Farm & Forest Camp

2024 FAMILY GUIDANCE & OVERVIEW



Bus Hub By Camp Session:

- Session 1: July 8-11 - [Dr. Nathan A. Pitts-Ashburton Elementary/Middle School](#)
- Session 2: July 15-18 - [Dr. Bernard Harris, Sr., Elementary School](#)
- Session 3: July 22-25 - [Armistead Gardens Elementary/Middle School](#)
- Session 4: July 29-August 1 - [The Historic Cherry Hill Elementary/Middle School](#)

The bus will be operated by Academy www.academybuscharter.com/cities/baltimore/

INFORMATION ON MEALS + WHAT TO WEAR AND BRING

Your child's safety and well-being are our top priorities at Great Kids Farm. Below is a list of notes and guidelines to help you prepare your students for their time on the farm.

What to Bring on Day 1: *Don't have something from the list below? Don't worry! Let us know and we'll be sure your child has that item to borrow.*

- *To leave in cubby for the week:* A bag with a spare change of clothes.
- *To leave in cubby for the week:* Close-toed water shoes if you have your own. Crocs are fine. Flip flops are NOT allowed. **Do not buy water shoes just for camp!** Your child will borrow ours if you don't already have them.
- *Bring back daily if used:* A bathing suit or an extra pair of shorts and shirt that can get wet in the stream or sprinklers.
- *Bring back daily if used:* A towel.
- *Bring back daily:* Personal medical needs
 - Epi-pen, and/or inhaler if they have one
 - Prescription medication if they take it at lunch

What to Wear:

- Students' clothes may get wet/dirty during the day; please dress accordingly.
- Must wear close-toed shoes with a backstrap. Crocs are OK. No flip-flops.
- See above for what to bring for stream or water play. There will be time to change clothes before and after water play.
- Hat and sunscreen for sun/UV ray protection.

Meals & Water:

- Breakfast, hot and cold lunch options, and snack are provided by Baltimore City Public Schools Food & Nutrition Services. If you would prefer that your child bring food, please pack a lunch to keep in their cubby.

Great Kids Farm & Forest Camp

2024 FAMILY GUIDANCE & OVERVIEW



- We will provide each camper with a reusable water bottle, and we have water stations on site that students will use throughout the day.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

WEATHER:

- Camp will not be cancelled for district- or City-designated "Code Red" days.
- On days with storms or extreme heat, we have indoor air-conditioned spaces that will be used for alternate activities.
- We have water stations and shaded areas throughout the farm. Please be sure your camper is dressed for hot days or rainy days!

Severe Allergies, Physical, Mental and Behavioral HEALTH:

Communication is key! Your child's needs are best met when communicated. Please share information prior to camp to ensure that our program is safe and fun for your child.

- Allergies: If your child has severe food allergies or carries an epi-pen for stings, our camp director will reach out to you to discuss your child's needs and a plan.
- Behavioral support: No diagnosis needed. Does your child struggle with outbursts, attention deficit, hyperactivity, or any other emotions or behaviors? Hands-on and outdoor experiences will help them thrive. Let us know triggers and needs so our staff can include and support them!
- Autism spectrum or other developmental disorders, delays or differences: Please let us know your child's abilities and needs for participation.
- Medical needs or medications: If your child uses a device, or takes medication during regular camp hours, our camp director will reach out to you to make a plan. Children must be able to take their own medication.
- All senior staff are First Aid and CPR certified and all staff are trained in basic first aid and emergency protocols.

CUBBIES:

- We do not provide a locked area for storage of valuables and cannot assume liability in the event of loss or theft. Students will have access to cubby bins throughout the day/week to leave bags, clothes, food, etc.

Great Kids Farm & Forest Camp

2024 FAMILY GUIDANCE & OVERVIEW



CAMP DATES & DAILY SCHEDULE

DATES: GKF will host four consecutive Monday-Thursday sessions (with no camp on Fridays):

- Session 1: July 8-11
- Session 2: July 15-18
- Session 3: July 22-25
- Session 4: July 29-August 1

ELEMENTS: Each day will include the below components.

- **Activity Blocks:** Educational workshops use GKF's agricultural ecosystem as a tool to engage students in hands-on skill building while reinforcing scientific concepts.
 - **Farm & Kitchen:** cook, learn nutrition, plant, harvest, & interact with animals.
 - **Forest & Trail:** Guided field, stream, and woods exploration, and projects
- **Clubs:** Students participate in trail or cooking clubs selected on Day 1
- **Farm Arts:** Could include: leaf prints, nature weaving, fresh fruit popsicle making, etc.
- **Opening and closing circles:** Staff make announcements, highlight daily character keys (e.g., courage, cooperation), play group games, solicit student shout-outs, and introduce a daily mindfulness practice.
- **Meals:** Meal time includes songs and skit-based learning about compost
- **Free Exploration:** Unstructured yet supervised play/exploration – campers may choose: sprinkler play/field games, stream play/exploration (Can be in bathing suits but no chests or heads below water), trail exploration, farm exploration, or camp crafts.

SCHEDULE: Below is a snapshot of the Great Kids Farm & Forest Camp typical schedule.

TIME	ACTIVITY
8:45am - 9:00am	Student arrival and check-in - BUS: Students drop-off from 8:15am-8:25am.
9:00am - 9:30am	Breakfast (optional) & Morning Circle
9:35am - 10:20am	Activity Block A (Forest & Trail or Farm & Kitchen)
10:25am - 11:10am	Activity Block B (Forest & Trail or Farm & Kitchen)
11:15am - 11:50am	Lunch, Compost Skits, & Song Session
11:50am - 12:10pm	Farm Talent Show (preparation and/or performance time)
12:15pm - 1:10pm	Clubs
1:15pm - 1:55pm	Free Exploration: garden, trail, water, stream
2:00pm - 2:30pm	Farm Crafts
2:30pm - 3:00pm	Closing Circle & Dismissal - <i>GKFFC bus departs GKF 3:00 (optional)</i>
3:00pm - 4:30pm	After-care and pick-up at Great Kids Farm (optional) - BUS: Student pick up by 3:30pm.

Great Kids Farm & Forest Camp

2024 FAMILY GUIDANCE & OVERVIEW



ADDITIONAL OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Farm Family Hours: On Thursdays, **3pm-5pm**, the last day of each session, camper families (adults and children!) are invited to visit the farm and explore with their students. An afternoon bus will still leave the farm at the normal 3pm departure time and no additional bus will be available to take students back to the bus hub later, so families of afternoon bus riders must notify camp staff if their afternoon transportation preference will change on that date (e.g., if a student who usually students usually rides the bus should wait on the farm).

Farm Family Produce Boxes: Our farm interns (Baltimore City Public School high schoolers) will be selling produce boxes with veggies, flowers, and eggs each week of camp. Families may buy the produce boxes through the Friends of Great Kids Farm website (www.friendsgkf.org – **ORDER FORM COMING SOON**). The boxes will be available for pick-up each week during Thursday Farm Family Hours or go home with campers on the bus on Thursday. The funds from the farm family produce boxes directly support the high school summer internship program. Before the first day of camp, you will receive a flyer with more information about this program.

Thank you for reviewing this document fully! To indicate that you have done so, please visit <http://bit.ly/GKFCamperintake24> or use the QR code below to complete the Google GKFFC Intake Form to indicate that you:



- ***Have reviewed all information in this 2024 Family Guidance & Overview document.***
- ***Have provided camp staff with all relevant information regarding student allergies and special needs.***
- ***Understand that if your student is taking the bus coordinated by GKFFC staff, the bus will be operated by Academy (more info at www.academybuscharter.com/cities/baltimore/).***