

GREAT KIDS FARM & FOREST CAMP

2022 FAMILY GUIDANCE & OVERVIEW



PERMISSIONS

In the following pages of this *2022 Family Guidance & Overview* document is all the information you will need to prepare your family for Great Kids Farm & Forest Camp (GKFFC) 2022. Once you have reviewed all sections in this document, please sign below to indicate that the following statements are true. You can either: (A) sign and send a copy or photo to Anne (acroenthal@bcps.k12.md.us or 443-624-0110), or (B) bring or sign a hard copy on the first morning of camp. (We will have blank copies if necessary.)

- *I have reviewed all information in this 2022 Family Guidance & Overview document regarding my student's session of camp.*
- *I have provided camp staff with all relevant information regarding student allergies and special needs.*
- *I understand that if my student is taking the bus coordinated by GKFFC staff, the bus will be operated by Academy (more info at www.academybuscharter.com/cities/baltimore/).*

Name of student participant (*print name*) _____

Name of adult guardian (*print name*) _____ Relationship _____

Signature of adult guardian (*sign name*) _____ Date of signature _____

FAMILY GUIDANCE

In Summer 2022, your child will participate in Great Kids Farm & Forest Camp (GKFFC) at Great Kids Farm (GKF) an educational farm operated by Baltimore City Public Schools' Food & Nutrition Services department. 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.

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.

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.
- Students will spend most of their time outdoors, so sun protection (in the form of hats, sunblock) is encouraged!

MEALS:

- Breakfast, lunch, and snack will be provided to all students by Baltimore City Public Schools Food & Nutrition Services. If you would prefer that your child bring food, we can refrigerate/store it.
- We will provide each camper with a reusable water bottle, and we have water stations on site that students will use throughout the day.

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

<http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/farm-school> | 410-744-1096 | farms@bcps.k12.md.us

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HEALTH:

- For students with medical- or behavior-related needs, we will collect information prior to camp to ensure that our program is safe and enjoyable for your student.
- **COVID-19:** Our practices will align with the [BCPSS Health & Safety Procedures](#), and we will confirm up-to-date policies prior to each session. As of 6/3/22, masks are optional for staff and students.

ATTIRE:

- Students' clothes may get wet/dirty during the day, so we ask that they dress accordingly.
- On the first day of camp, students should bring a change of clothes (shorts, shirt, socks, shoes) in a bag with their name on it. We will store, use when necessary, and return on last day of camp.
- There will also be water play on hot days, so students are encouraged to bring a swimsuit and towel (or clothes that can get wet, along with a change of dry clothes) each day.
- Students must wear closed-toed shoes with back-straps (crocs are ok!). If you need support providing for your student, please let staff know. On days when students will wade in the stream, we will provide tall rain boots to students. If you own them, students are encouraged to bring their own rain boots, closed-toed water shoes, or crocs from home, but they are not required.
- 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, food, etc.

AFTERCARE:

- New this year, free and optional after-care on the farm will be offered from 3pm-4:30pm, and students may be picked up by guardians any time in that window. As is noted below in "TRANSPORTATION" section, no bus option will be available at the end of after-care hours.

TRANSPORTATION:

- **MORNING:**
 - Families may drop off students on the farm between 8:45-9:00am: 6601 Baltimore National Pike, Catonsville, MD 21228.
 - **FREE BUS:** Bus transportation will be provided for all students who would like it from Dallas F. Nicholas Sr. Elementary School @ 201 E 21st St, Baltimore, MD 21218. Families who select this option must drop students at this address 8:15-8:25am, and the bus will leave promptly at 8:30am. The bus will not be able to wait for late students.
- **AFTERNOON:** Camp ends at 3:00pm, but staff will operate an optional after-care program on the farm until 4:30pm, by which time all students must be picked up.
 - Families may pick up students at 3:00pm at the end of the camp day.
 - Families may choose for students to stay for some or all of free after-care on the farm, and pick up students between 3:00-4:30pm.
 - **FREE BUS:** Bus transportation will be provided for all students who would like it from the farm back to Dallas F. Nicholas Sr. Elementary School @ 201 E 21st St, Baltimore, MD 21218. Families who select this option must pick up students at this address at 3:30pm.
- GKFFC staff will collect information on transportation plans prior to camp, and families will need to flag any changes for GKFFC staff as soon as possible. Families will also need to send staff a list of approved driver(s) if adults other than guardians will be picking up students at the farm or bus hub.

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STAFF & CONTACTS

- **COMMUNICATION PRIOR TO CAMP:** Please direct all camp-related questions to Anne @ ACRosenthal@bcps.k12.md.us (443-624-0110).
- **COMMUNICATION DURING CAMP DAYS:** We will provide accurate week-by-week contact info prior to each session.
- The full camp team includes:
 - Camp Director: Laura "L" Menyuk – LNMenyuk@bcps.k12.md.us
 - Camp Administrative Coordinator: Anne Rosenthal – ACRosenthal@bcps.k12.md.us
 - Camp Assistant Director: Kaitlyn Talerico
 - Camp Education Manager: Laura Genello – LSGenello@bcps.k12.md.us
 - Camp Counselors



CAMP OVERVIEW

DATES: GKF will host four consecutive Monday-Thursday sessions (with no camp on Fridays), as follows, for distinct camper groups:

- SESSION 1: 7/11-7/14
- SESSION 2: 7/18-7/21
- SESSION 3: 7/25-7/28
- SESSION 4: 8/1-8/4

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 (F&K)**, e.g., cooking, nutrition education, planting, harvesting, livestock interaction
 - **Forest & Trail (F&T)**, e.g., field, stream, and woods exploration, water cycle experiments, species identification, and team engineering projects (e.g., building nature shelter)
- **Clubs:** Students participate in clubs selected on Day 1 (e.g., Food Waste Warriors, Aquaponics Engineers).

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- **Farm Arts:** Students take part in crafts (e.g., leaf collages, pollinator habitats, garden labels).
- **Opening and closing circles:** Staff make announcements, highlight daily character keys (e.g., courage, cooperation), solicit student shout-outs, and introduce a daily wellness (e.g., mindfulness practice, yoga pose), or teambuilding (cooperative games) moment.
- **Meals:** Free meals are available, and meal time includes songs and an emphasis on food waste reduction.
- **Free play:** Unstructured play time may involve sprinklers, outdoor games, trail exploration.

SCHEDULE: Below is a snapshot of the Great Kids Farm & Forest Camp schedule for summer 2022. This schedule is subject to minor changes and will repeat for each of the four week-long camp sessions in July-August.

TIME	ACTIVITY
8:45am - 9:00am	Student arrival and check-in - BUS: Students taking bus must be dropped off at Dallas F. Nicholas Sr. Elementary 8:15am-8:25am.
9:00am - 9:30am	Breakfast (optional) & Morning Circle
9:30am - 10:15am	Activity Block A (Forest & Trail or Farm & Kitchen)
10:15am - 11:00am	Activity Block B (Forest & Trail or Farm & Kitchen)
11:00am - 11:40am	Lunch & Food Waste Weigh-In & Song Session
11:40am - 12:10pm	Farm Talent Show (preparation and/or performance time)
12:10pm - 1:10pm	Clubs
1:10pm - 2:00pm	Free Exploration: garden, trail, water, stream
2:00pm - 2:30pm	Farm Crafts
2:30pm - 3:00pm	Closing Circle & Dismissal - GKFFC bus departs GKF 3:00 (optional)
3:00pm - 4:30pm	After-care and pick-up at Great Kids Farm (optional) - BUS: Students taking bus must be pick up at Dallas F. Nicholas Sr. Elementary at 3:30pm.