

Country Corner “Working” Farm Group Tour Outline

Mission Statement

Our Mission at Country Corner is to provide our customers and visitors with friendly service, fresh quality produce, fair market prices, and fresh family fun along with quality educational fun experiences while visiting our “working” farm.

Tour Objective

To provide a Quality Educational Interactive Experience full of FUN and Enjoyment for all visitors touring our farm. To provide ample opportunities within our programs to meet the educational needs and guidelines set forth in the Illinois Board Of Education Standards.

Overview

Tours may include some or all aspects of meeting these standards depending on activities, season or packages chosen. Seasonal, spring, summer or fall tours are available with different focuses on content and activities. (See Group Tour Rates Package List, for content and availability)

Arrival

Upon arrival, a designated Tour Guide will meet each Group in the parking lot. Finalization of any head counts, fee payments, adjustments or needed introductions or instructions will take place. Tour Guides will allow a short organizational time allotment for the group prior to the beginning of the tour to facilitate restroom usage, bundling up of outer wear and group organization. It is suggested that each group arrive 15 minutes early to allow your tour to start on time. Should there be a need to split a group due to size, a second Tour Guide will be utilized. (Recommended group size is 30)

Tour Content

Guided tours depending on the groups size/numbers, seasonal availability and package chosen may include one or more of the following activities; Tractor drawn Hay Rack Ride, Interactive Corn Maze, Barn Yard Petting Zoo, Bee Barn with an active Observation Bee Hive, Learning Center, Natural Prairie Study Plot & Butterfly Garden. Additional activities and programs are available upon prior request or with scheduling options. Keep in mind that many factors come into play during your tour, the weather, the season, the group size, the arrival time, the programs chosen and their availability. The average tour time is 90 – 180 minutes and does not include play time at the Timber Park Playground or the eating of a meal or snack. Please allow the appropriate time in your transportation schedule to enjoy your visit to the farm.

Tractor Drawn Hay Rack Ride

The purpose of the hayrack ride will be both Educational and FUN. At designated stops along the way, our tour guides will delight each group with “Farm Stories”, as they interact with the group, explaining the various types of produce grown and pointing out specific areas of interest. Topics of discussion will include photosynthesis, pollination and harvest techniques’. The changes in the season will dictate the topics, growing patterns and product availability.

Spring- During a spring trip to the “Strawberry U-Pick Patch” for a chance to select your very own berries to take home and enjoy along with a trip to the vegetable garden to see how fresh vegetables are grown and harvested. Discover how plastic is utilized in our growth program. Topics of discussion will include plastic culture, irrigation, photosynthesis and pollination.

Summer- During a summer trip to the “Great Melon Patch” where our tour guides will pick a watermelon for you to enjoy with your lunch or as a snack. Discover how watermelons are grown without seeds inside. Topics of discussion will include plastic culture, irrigation, photosynthesis and pollination.

Fall- During a fall trip to the “U-Pick Pumpkin Patch” everyone will be allowed to pick their very own small pie pumpkin to take home and enjoy as a decoration or to use in their favorite homemade pumpkin pie recipe. Topics of discussion will include honey bees, pollination and photosynthesis.

Barn Yard Petting Zoo

Visit our barn yard petting zoo for a chance to pet and feed the animals, learn interesting facts about all our friendly farm animals as you discover the answers to specific questions related to each. This portion of the tour is partly self-guided, a tour guide will be available to answer questions and pose them as well. New feeder tubes and methods are available for those who prefer not to come in contact with the animals. Hand washing stations are available at the exit of the petting zoo.

Bee Barn

Visit our Bee Barn to see an enclosed active working honey bee hive. View a portion or all of a twenty minute video on the history and life cycle of a bee colony. Learn interesting facts as you discover the answers to questions related to a bee's life. View displays of Bee working equipment and tools used for collecting Honey.

Corn Maze

Adventure awaits groups entering the Interactive Corn Maze. Groups will need to work together or in small groups to solve the maze puzzle. Several levels of interaction are available from simple scavenger hunts to question and answer problem solving tasks. Each adventure is geared specifically to the group's level. An outdoor classroom will be set up within the Maze to accommodate discussion and discovery, learn how a maze is constructed; answer questions found within the maze and learn interesting facts about the growth and use of corn.

Prairie Study Plot & Butterfly Garden

Stroll into the past as you experience a visit to our Natural Prairie Plot and Butterfly Garden. Discover natural plants, flowers and wildlife indigenous to our area. Identify items within the Prairie that are living all around us, learn the history of what a prairie is and how Illinois Prairie's were formed.

Learning Center

Visit the Learning Center to discover interesting farm facts, view displays, play interactive games, participate in discussions about farm related activities and procedures. Discover the answers to the questions posed by our tour guides and other un-answered question's found within the other activity areas. Participate in hands on activities found only in the Learning Center.

Timber Park Playground

Relax and enjoy some Fun at the playground, where groups can let off a little steam. Although not a part of your scheduled tour, a must for all, everyone loves to play on the playground equipment, climbing in the tree house, swinging on the swings, playing on the slides or just sitting in the shade relaxing eating lunch or a snack. Take a walk along our UN-Natural Nature Trail where you will find many items to identify, some of which may not belong. Return to the Learning Center to discover how the items may have gotten there.