

Get Farming Club

FAQs

What will my child learn in the club?

Get Farming members engage with all aspects of the Farm including helping care for the animals, the wildlife habitats and youth allotments. Typical activities include collecting eggs, letting the turkeys out for exercise, grooming the guinea pigs and taking the donkeys out for walks. The group also grow vegetables and fruit which is cooked and eaten at the Club, or taken home to enjoy with family members.

Will my child work towards any awards/achievements?

We use AQA's Unit Award Scheme to record student achievement. Topics covered include animal husbandry, food growing, cooking, craft and the environment.

Does the club stop running during the school holidays?

The club runs all year through, including in school holidays, however, there is a two week break over the Christmas period. We continue to monitor attendance during school holidays so it is important that your child comes when they can to ensure their place is not lost.

My child can't attend a session in the future. What should I do?

If you know that there are date/s when your child will not be able to attend, please email the Youth Coordinator, Lucy on lucy@surreydocksfarm.org.uk

What happens when my child turns 14?

Once your child reaches 14 they will be eligible to graduate onto a livestock volunteering role. If your child would prefer to delay this transition, with the agreement of the Youth Coordinator they can stay on until the last Saturday of the the school term during they turn 14. For example, if your child turns 14 on January 1st, they will graduate on the last Saturday of the Spring Term. If your child is interested in volunteering we encourage them to choose the shift they want to work (mornings 10.00 - 12.30 & afternoons 14.00 - 16.30) and email the Farm Manager, Gemma, to arrange enrollment gemma@surreydocksfarm.org.uk

I have applied for a place online, can I come along to the next session?

Once we receive an application form there is a process to follow: we need to check your eligibility against criteria set out by our funders, check whether there is a place for your child in your preferred session, send out terms and conditions and a welcome email with a start date. We are unable to accommodate children for whom this process has not been followed.

I have applied for a place but haven't heard anything yet. Why is this?

The member of staff who responds to applications works at the Farm Wednesday to Sunday and frequently delivers projects which are not office based. Please wait 14 days from applying to hear back. We appreciate your patience!

My child's friend is visiting for the day. Can they join in with the club?

Children who are not enrolled in the club will not be permitted to join in with a session. This is because: 1) we will not have followed the health and safety procedure for new starters,

including gathering information about allergies and medical issues 2) we need to adhere to legal ratios of adults:participants and admitting an extra child could tip this balance 3) this could disrupt the group learning together towards the achievement of an award.

My child has been refused a place. Why is this?

The Farm is bound by eligibility criteria set by funders as to the demographics we engage in Club activities. Guidelines are in place in order for us to ensure we engage children who would benefit most from the Club. If your child has been refused a place it will be because they did not meet all the eligibility criteria set by the funder. The Farm is committed to engaging as many young people as possible so please do make use of the Farm being free to enter and our fantastic range of holiday activities which are open to all 8 - 13 year olds and bookable here: www.surreydocksfarm.org.uk

What should I do if I am running late to drop off or collect my child?

Please call the Farm as soon as possible on 02072 311010 to let us know. If you are more than 10 minutes late to collect your child, they will be waiting in the Farm Shop with the weekend manager. This is because the Youth team need to pack away and prepare for the next sessions and will be unable to stay with your child. We record lateness on the Club registers and persistent lateness will result in your child's place being lost.

My child was waiting in the shop when I arrived. Why was that?

If your child is not collected within 10 minutes of the end of the club time they will be escorted to wait in the Farm Shop with the Weekend Manager. This is because the Youth team need to pack away and prepare for the next sessions and are unable to stay with your child. If you are running late to pick up your child, please call the Farm on 02072 311010 to let us know.

My child has lost his/her place due to poor attendance. How do I re-apply for a place?

The club is extremely popular and demand for spaces is consistently high. In order to make it as fair as possible to all, children with low attendance will lose their place to somebody on the waiting list. Children will lose their place if they do not attend for six consecutive weeks or if their attendance drops below 50%. All Farm equipment and clothing will then need to be returned to the Farm. Enforcing this rule ensures that the Farm is fair to those who have been waiting for spaces.

What does my child need to wear to the sessions?

Please ensure your child is equipped with sensible, weather appropriate clothing depending on the season. We recommend as a basic kit: wellies, thermals, sun protection and sturdy shoes.

Do I need to give my child a packed lunch?

We offer a small snack and drinks at the club during break times and it is therefore not necessary to provide food or drink for your child. If your child has special dietary requirements, please let us know at registration. Please do not provide food for your children unless previously arranged with Farm staff. This is because we may need to control food in the environment in the event of children with allergies.

Are the youth club staff CRB checked?

Yes, all staff have been vetted with an enhanced DBS Criminal Record Check. The Farm has a Child Protection Policy and Lucy, the Youth Coordinator has received Child Protection Training. If you'd like to receive a copy of the Farm's Child Protection Policy please request one by emailing lucy@surreydocksfarm.org.uk

What happens to the information I entered on the enrolment form?

The information we gather from you at enrollment is entered into our databases for monitoring and evaluation purposes. Your information is kept secure and confidential and we don't share your information with third parties. Information we gather helps us write reports to funders and goes towards making improvements to the youth services we offer.