



Pumpkin Science Lab Field Trip Planning Guide

We are so excited that you are coming to visit our farm, and we want to make sure you and your students have the best field trip possible! Therefore, please be familiar with this planning guide, and pass it on to all teachers and chaperones, so everyone knows what to expect when you arrive. We want this day to run smoothly for you, and we want to avoid any disappointments.

What is included in our field trip?

Your class will be participating in the Pumpkin Science Lab field trip, which is designed to teach students scientific observation and data collection in a farm setting. The following activities are included in your field trip:

- Take a hayride to the Great Pumpkin Patch and pick your own pumpkin to take home
- Visit the following learning stations:
 - Pumpkin Science Lab: Covers scientific observation and data collection exercises and measurement activities.
 - Bee Pollination Station: Covers various pollinators (honey bee, squash bee, bumble bee) and their importance for growing pumpkins.
 - Ye Olde Barnyard: Animal observation and fun facts about farm animals
- Have fun on the farm:
 - Fun Barn Swings or Pumpkin Mountain Slide (our tour guides will select one for you when the time comes – as time, space, and age group allows)
 - Little Farmer's Corral
 - Picnic tables & concessions

Please note that the following attractions are ***not included*** in the Pumpkin Science Lab field trip: Zip Line, Jumping Pillow, Pedal Tractors, Pig Races, Corn Maze, Face Painting, Barrel Train Ride, and Dangerfield Downs Races. These activities are available when we are open to the public during our weekend Fall Harvest Festival.

Where do we go when we arrive?

Whether you arrive by bus or by car, look for our Tour Guides (denim overalls, red shirts, name tags), who will show you where to park. Once the vehicles are safely parked, please have one member of your group check-in at our admissions booth. All other group leaders should **have the children bring their lunches**, and line up at the appropriate flag. Our Tour Guides will tell you which flag is assigned to your group. Please note that the groups are assigned based on classroom – not school. Therefore, one school may have multiple flags, and the groups will be split up to go through the various stations. Please be sure to stay with your designated flag during the entire day. Prior to going past the admissions booth, the leader responsible for checking in the school must disburse the wrist bands to each classroom before going through the admissions doors, as **everyone must have a wrist band to be admitted**. In addition, it is strongly recommended that pumpkin bags be disbursed to the individual classrooms at this time as well, as the entire group may not be going to the patch at the same time.

At each group's flag, there will be a wheelbarrow for the children's lunches. Please select an adult from your group to take the wheelbarrow with the lunches down the hill toward the Fun Barn. They can park the wheelbarrow at any location and then rejoin the group (be sure to have them communicate where the wheelbarrows are located). **Important:** *If you choose to park your wheelbarrow at a specific picnic table, this does not reserve that picnic table for your use. Since different groups will be eating lunch at different times, the **picnic tables may not be reserved**, and are available on a first-come first-served basis only.*

Once the group is checked in, our Tour Guides will give your group a brief introduction to the farm and to the activities planned for the day. They will then direct your group to either line up for the hayride to the pumpkin patch, or walk down to the bottom of the hill where the learning stations are located.

How do we know which learning stations to go to?

When your group arrives the Tour Guide will send you to your first activity. Please note that this decision is made based on the availability of stations at that time. There is no set order of when you will attend a certain station. This ensures that all groups are able to spend ample time at each station, and that you are never waiting for another group to finish. Once you have completed the program at a given station, the Tour Guide will direct you to the next station, based again on availability.

During this time, it is very important to stay with your flag. If your school has 4 different flags, each flag will be sent to a different station. This keeps groups sizes small, and ensures that all children are given the same opportunities. If you have parents and children that break away from the flag, they will most likely not be included in any of the activities.

When do we pick our pumpkin?

Visiting the Great Pumpkin Patch is a highlight of our field trips, and is included as one of the stations. Your group will enjoy the hayride to the pumpkin patch based on station availability, usually at the beginning or the end of your visit to the farm. On occasion, a group will arrive at the farm with a very limited amount of time (usually due to transportation issues) and not have time to do everything. For these groups that choose to opt out of the hayride due to the large amount of time this requires, we plan to have pumpkins pre-picked for your group to pick up as you exit. For the majority of those taking the hayride to the pumpkin patch, Belvedere staff will assist you loading and unloading. **Bags for pumpkins will not be provided. We encourage you to bring pre-printed labels or a permanent marker for putting the child's name on their pumpkin.** After returning from the pumpkin patch, wheelbarrows will be available for you to move pumpkins back to your vehicle. Many groups find it convenient to use their backpacks instead.

What should we bring?

- Bag lunch or money for concessions (**CAUTION: Avoid sugary drinks or cans of soft drinks. This is generally the *number one cause of yellow jacket bee stings* on the farm, especially after we have had our first frost.**)
- Water bottles
- Pre-printed labels or permanent marker for pumpkin bag
- Cameras & batteries (*Many cameras, cell phones, and keys get lost in the Fun Barn and on the Hayride. Please secure items.*)
- Sun screen
- Bug spray
- Allergy medicines, if applicable (especially epi-pens or inhalers)
- Umbrella or wet weather gear, if applicable

What should we wear?

- Comfortable shoes that cover toes – you will be walking on gravel and grass
- Layers – it is generally cool in the mornings and warm by lunch. ALL ACTIVITIES ARE OUTSIDE
- It is highly recommended that you NOT wear perfumes – there are both working bees and yellow jackets on the farm that may be attracted to sweet scents.

Other important tips:

- Have payment ready on arrival to speed check-in and save your group considerable time!
- Strongly consider having children bring their backpack (for those who normally use one at school). This makes it easier for children to carry their lunch, stow their jacket (when it warms up and they take it off) and carry their pumpkin home.
- Bring adequate chaperones to manage and participate with your group. One adult per 5 or 6 children is strongly recommended for the Pumpkin Science Lab activities.
- Most bees are bred to be very gentle and will only sting to defend themselves or the colony. Wild Wasps and Yellow Jackets account for almost all bee stings on the farm. If a bee lands on you, simply blow it off, do not hit or swat it.
- All bees are naturally attracted to food sitting out open on the tables. Instruct your students to only open items as they are ready to eat them (i.e. don't open entire lunch and lay it out on a napkin in front of you – this just attracts bees). Also, we can't say enough, **avoid canned sodas or juices**. Most bee stings we have seen are on the lips of children who drink from a can of soda that has a bee in it.
- Watch weather forecasts days before and advise parents to dress the children appropriately. Field trips continue as planned unless the teacher cancels.