

# Muscoot Farm

## Young Farmers Program 2012

Dear Parents,

Thank you for entrusting your child to us this summer for the Young Farmers Program. We strive to provide a safe, positive and unique experience for everyone who attends our camp. You can help us reach this goal by adhering to the policies below.

**Camp Attire:** Young Farmers engage in a wide range of activities with safety as our primary focus. Campers can expect to be outdoors in varied weather conditions. Please follow these guidelines:

1. **Long Pants** - Children must arrive at Muscoot wearing long pants. For your child's safety, long pants must be worn while they are doing chores, as well as for protection against ticks. If the weather is warm, zip-off cargo pants or changing into shorts are permitted.
2. **Sturdy Footwear** – Sneakers or boots must be worn at all times, please do not send your child in open toe or open body shoes, including but not limited to sandals, crocs or clogs. For safety reasons children not wearing sturdy footwear will not be able to interact with the animals.
3. **Jewelry** - Dangling jewelry may not be worn (i.e. earrings, necklaces, bracelets, etc.). Jewelry can easily get caught on animal horns, fences, gates, etc. causing potential harm to the camper as well as the animals.
4. **Rain Gear** - Inclement weather should be anticipated, and unless it is severe (thunder, lightening, torrential rain), the children will still participate in outdoor activities, including farm chores. Please send your child to camp with a raincoat and hat. Umbrellas do not do well on the farm.

**Electronic devices:** Please do not send your child to camp with iPods, electronic games or cameras. Cell phones should stay in backpacks. The object of the program is for your child to experience a child's life on a farm during the early 1900's. Today's technology can be intrusive to our unique camp experience.

**Drop-off and Pick-up Procedures:** Every morning and afternoon, parents are to **park their car and walk to the Activity Building** with your child or to pick-up your child. This allows you to meet your child's teachers and receive updates about camp. There are **no exceptions** to this policy.

**Drop-off time: 8:45 – 9:00 a.m.** Drop-off begins at 8:45 a.m. The camp staff will be preparing for the day and will not be able to receive your child earlier. Also, morning chores start promptly at 9 a.m. Because the animals are waiting to be fed, we cannot wait for late arrivals. If you do arrive late, please walk your child to the Activity Building so he/she may sign-in and a staff person will take your child to join his/her group.

**Pick-up time: 3:00 p.m.** No child will be released to anyone other than their parent or guardian unless prior arrangements are made. If you are planning to carpool, please fill out the form on the

first day of camp. If you are unable to pick up your child, and intend to send a substitute, please provide a signed note permitting us to release your child to the substitute. In urgent situations you may notify us by phone (914-864-7285). The substitute may be asked to present identification.

**Late or absent children:** If your child will be late or absent, please call Muscoot Farm by 9:15 a.m. at **914-864-7285**. If they are ill, please make sure they are fever free for 24 hours before sending them back to camp. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer make up days.

**Lunches:** Please send your child with lunch every day. In an effort to teach sustainability, campers are encouraged to pack lunches and drinks in reusable containers that do not need refrigeration. The Muscoot Farm snack bar has irregular hours and your child cannot rely on being able to purchase lunch.

**Insect Repellent and Sunscreen:** If you would like your child to use insect repellent or sunscreen please apply it at home. Teachers are not permitted to apply it to your child, and repellent may not be applied in the buildings.

**Special Accommodations:** If your child requires special accommodations for concerns such as: food allergies, unique sensitivities, behavioral matters, or is on medication please take the time to contact me prior to the start of camp (mid June). Any information discussed will be kept confidential and no child will be turned away from the program. It is important for us to provide each child with a safe and enjoyable experience. Receiving this information in advance allows us to properly accommodate your child.

#### **Ice-cream Social**

Parents and siblings are invited to watch the Young Farmers make homemade ice-cream and sample the finished product on Friday at 2:00 p.m. for each week session. If you cannot attend, please feel free to send another family member or friend to enjoy your child's handiwork.

Thank you once again for enrolling your child in the Young Farmers Program at Muscoot Farm. If you would like to speak with me, please call me at 914-864-7285. On behalf of the farm staff, we look forward to a wonderful summer with your child.

Sincerely,

Katherine Sclafani  
Camp Director



*Muscoot Farm, 51 Route 100, Katonah NY 10536 [www.muscootfarm.org](http://www.muscootfarm.org)*