



Arcadia Farm Field Trips & VA Standards of Learning

Arcadia Farm field trips contain the following program elements:

- An introductory farm tour and overview of the systems of sustainable farming;
- Five hands-on activities, addressing the following aspects of farming: soils and compost, plant life, pests and pollinators, livestock and harvesting and nutrition.

In addition to teaching important life skills, each of these program elements addresses Virginia Standards of Learning (SOLs). Below are in-depth descriptions of Arcadia Farm field trip program elements, followed by the relevant VA SOLs that apply to each grade level.

Introduction and Farm Tour

Students will use their five senses to learn about the elements that a working farm employs to be self-sufficient and produce food using sustainable methods. A farm educator will engage the students in a scavenger hunt as they touch upon compost and soil health, beneficial insects and pollination, pests and plant disease, and plant needs.

Relevant VA Standards of Learning by grade level:

	Science	English
Kindergarten	K.2, K.7	K.1, K.11
1st grade	1.7, 1.8	1.1, 1.3
2nd grade	2.4, 2.5, 2.7, 2.8	2.1, 2.3
3rd grade	3.1, 3.8, 3.10	3.1
4th grade	4.5, 4.8	4.1
5th grade	5.5	5.1

Hands-on Activities

Students will rotate through four 15-minute interactive stations that will explore farm life.

- **Plant life:** Students will explore the world of edible plants by participating in the many aspects of caring for plants. We'll discuss the life cycles of plants and edible plant parts through interaction, investigation and observation.
- **Pests and Pollinators:** Students will learn that there are all kinds of pollinators - birds, bats, bugs and more – and specifically examine the role bees play on our farm. We'll discuss the importance of pollination for many of our favorite foods. Plus, we'll talk about how sustainable farmers deal with pests.





- **Soils:** Students will learn about different soils types present on the farm by investigating the texture and composition of the soils; learning about compost and soil nutrients, and observing the worm and insect population. They will gain an understanding of the relationship between soil health, plant health and human health by preparing beds for plants and fertilization using compost and other natural methods.
- **Livestock:** Students will discuss the life cycle of chickens, as well as the different functions of livestock in our farm ecosystem. Students will meet our chickens, and they will collect and classify their eggs.
- **Harvest and Food Preparation:** Students will learn proper harvesting techniques and how to tell when a crop is ripe and ready to eat. Then students will prepare a dressing and have the opportunity to taste farm-fresh food.

Relevant VA Standards of Learning by grade level:

	Science	English	Health
Kindergarten	K.1, K.2, K.6, K.7, K.9, K.11	K.1, K.2, K.11	K.1, K.2, K.6
1st grade	1.1, 1.4, 1.5, 1.7, 1.8	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.12	1.2, 1.4, 1.6, 1.7
2nd grade	2.4, 2.5, 2.7, 2.8	2.1, 2.3	2.2
3rd grade	3.1, 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, 3.10	3.1	3.1, 3.2
4th grade	4.5, 4.8	4.1	4.1
5th grade	5.1, 5.5	5.1	5.1, 5.2, 5.5

For more information about Arcadia Farm field trips, please visit www.arcadiafood.org. Please email FieldTrips@arcadiafood.org if you have any questions.

We hope to see you out at Arcadia Farm soon!