



School Farm Field Trips

August 30 – November 4, 2024, Monday – Friday from 9 am – 3 pm

Gaver Farm offers educational field trips to accredited public and private schools, preschools, year-round daycares, head start programs and organized homeschools. Farm field trips provide an opportunity for children to learn about and experience agriculture on a real working farm and meet our family farm members. Guests learn about the life cycle of a pumpkin, our friend the bee, farm animals and agriculture products.

The field trip includes a **hayride** to the pumpkin patch to pick your own **pumpkin** (under 5 pounds), self-guided educational opportunities and **Fall Fun Fest admission**. Visit www.gaverfarm.com for a complete list of attractions under the Fall Fun Festival Tab. Festival Admission is for the entire day of the trip. Remember to tell the kids to dress in layers and wear old shoes, comfortable for playing and activity. Please read the Farm Policies and Rules on the FAQ page before your visit. Pumpkin inclusion is subject to availability.

MAKE A RESERVATION: Complete the fillable form at www.gaverfarm.com/fall/school-tours/ to reserve your date! Provide contact information, date requested, **ARRIVAL TIME** and **TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE**. Peak field trip dates are the weeks of October 14th and 21st (these weeks will fill up). Reservation spots are on a first come, first served basis.

PAYMENT: There is no deposit required. Bring payment for the entire group and pay upon arrival at check-in at the front register of the Farm Market. **You must pay with ONE PAYMENT** of cash or check (with proper ID) to receive the school field trip group rate of \$9. We do not accept payment vouchers of any kind. Credit Card Convenience Fee: a 3% fee will be added for schools using a credit card to pay.

- If parents are arriving separately/early and *paying on their own*, tell them to arrive 15 minutes early to allow enough time for them to purchase admission before the hayride departs.
- Any person paying separately will not receive the group rate- they pay general admission.
- You will receive wristbands for your group at check-in after payment is complete. The cashier will count the wristbands out to you using the number you paid for, calculated on your check-in form. Make sure you receive the correct number of wristbands before walking away from the cashier. If you do not have enough for every person in your group (including teachers), you will have to purchase more before those without wristbands can board the hayride or enter the Fall Fun Fest. Make sure you *keep your receipt* to turn into your school!
- Everyone in your group must be properly wearing a wristband to board the hayride or enter the Fall Fun Fest.
- **You are responsible for distributing wristbands to your group members!**

Check-in and Payment Form

Bring this completed form and your remittance to the cashier (located at register inside Farm Market). The cell phone number listed below may be used by the Gaver Farm team to contact you during your visit (lost student, departure).

School/Group Name: _____ Email: _____

Contact Name: _____ Cell: _____

_____	Number of Children (Age 2 and older)	\$9.00	_____
_____	Free Teacher (1 Free Teacher per 20 students)	\$0.00	_____
_____	Extra Staff, Teachers and Instructional Assistants	\$9.00	_____
_____	Chaperones/ Additional Family Members	\$9.00	_____
_____	TOTAL WRISTBANDS: <i>Every person must be wearing a wristband before participating in a Field Trip.</i>		
_____	_____ Pumpkins for Kids under 2 (optional)	\$3.00	_____
_____	_____ Animal Feed Souvenir Cup (optional)	\$4.00	_____
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE			\$ _____

COST: The cost is \$9 per person (children, adults and chaperones), **when paid in ONE transaction.**

- Kids under age 2 are FREE. Additional pumpkins for kids under 2 can be purchased at check-in (optional).
- Teachers: One free teacher per 20 students. All additional teachers, aids and staff are \$9.00. Gaver Farm requests that you follow the student:teacher ratio suggested by the State of Maryland for your field trip.
- Season passes are NOT valid for school tours, as noted on the pass. Season pass holders must pay \$9 per person.
- Schools must register their group at least seven days in advance of their visit to qualify for the school group rate.
- UNUSED wristbands cannot be used on another date. DO NOT give them to guests from your school- they are unable to use them on any other date. They can be returned on the date of your visit, before departure ONLY.
- Invoices should be requested as soon as possible. Gaver Farm will provide one Invoice per school.
- Refunds required due to overpayment with a check, are processed through our office only. The refund check will be made payable to the issuing institution and will be mailed to the address on the check received.
- You must have a **minimum of 20 people** age 2 and older to qualify for the school field trip rate and hayride.

"I don't have 20 people! What should I do?!" Don't worry! You have other awesome options!

- General Admission: (pumpkin not included) on weekdays from 10 am – 6 pm. General hayrides are free and begin with the weekday High Noon Hayride (Hayride schedule is posted on the website and social media).
- **NEW: 20 Wristband Minimum: Groups smaller than 20 people will be charged for a minimum of 20 people.**
- Homeschool Field Trip Days: September 25 OR 26 from 10 am – noon. Parents and their home-schooled children may take advantage of the school group rates. No reservations are necessary. Let the cashier know at check-in you are checking in for Orchard Day. Tickets are only available at the farm. No free teachers or parents. Check-in opens at 9:30 am. You must check in prior to 12 noon to receive the field trip rate and hayride. Hayrides run continuously from 10 am - 12 noon to pick your own pumpkin (under 5 pounds, included). The last outbound hayride will depart at 12 noon- don't miss it! The Farm Market, Fall Fun Fest and Donut Hut will be open until 6 pm to stay all day!

APPLE ORCHARD FIELD TRIP: September 12th from 10am - 12 noon. The cost is \$15.00 per person and includes a ¼ Peck PYO Apple bag, FREE scenic hayride, and Fall Fun Fest admission. All guests age 2 and older must have their own Gaver Farm PYO bag to be admitted into the Orchard. No reservations are necessary. Let the cashier know at check-in you are checking in for Orchard Day. Tickets are only available at the farm. Check-in opens at 9:30 am. Hayrides run continuously from 10 am - 12 noon to the Orchard. You must check in prior to 12 noon. The last outbound hayride will depart at 12 noon- don't miss it! The Farm Market, Fall Fun Fest and Donut Hut will be open until 6 pm to stay all day!

Trip Tips:

- Gaver Farm has portable restrooms throughout the farm and a Baby Barn with changing and nursing stations.
- **LUNCH:** You are welcome to eat at one of many picnic areas! The DONUT HUT is open on weekdays from 10 am – 6 pm, the Barn Grill is open on weekdays from 11 am - 2 pm, or you may bring a bagged lunch. Bring plenty of drinks, especially on hot days. The farm has water, soda, cider, juice and other beverages available for purchase, but does not provide free drinks or cups.
- **WEATHER:** Gaver Farm closes in the event of precipitation. If the weather is uncertain, check your email or the farm's website for updates on closures before coming to the farm, or call the farm at 301-865-3515.
- **Field Trip Schedule:** **HAVE YOUR CHECK-IN FORM AND PAYMENT READY WHEN YOU ARRIVE!**
 - 1) Check-in** at the Farm Market. Put on your wristbands and move to the Hayride Loading Zone. Be organized! The sooner you have your numbers/check-in form and payment ready, the sooner we can start!
 - 2) Hayride** to pick your own pumpkin. Pumpkins are picked from our Field Trip Patch. The hayride wagon does not wait for you at the pumpkin patch (take all belongings and strollers with you). You will put your pumpkins in a designated cart at the pumpkin patch (HINT: bring bags labeled with the kids' names) and pick them up in front of the Farm Market at departure. If you wish to return on a hayride to the Farm Market, please let the Patch Attendant know, or tell any hayride driver and they will facilitate your return hayride.
 - 3) Fall Fun Festival** includes over 50 attractions and farm animals. Kids must be adequately supervised.
 - 4) Departure.** Complete any Farm Market purchases before exiting the Farm Market. Your pumpkins from the patch are in a cart labeled with your school's name under the Pumpkin Tree (to your left as you walk out the front of the Market). Do not reenter the Farm Market with your field trip pumpkins or purchases.

School's Out for Fall = Field Trip Blackout Dates: September 2; October 3, 14, 18, 28 and November 5, 2024. When school is out in Frederick County and/or surrounding counties we do not schedule field trips. You are welcome to come on these dates under general weekday admission. Pumpkins are not included in general admission. Free hayrides are available from 10 am – 6 pm.

Teacher Appreciation Weekend: September 21-22, 2024. Teachers with a valid ID receive FREE Fall Fun Fest admission and 1 FREE guest admission! Mark your calendars! Bring your family and friends to the farm!