



## **Educational Field Trips at Shalom Farms**

All educational field trips include a short lesson, content-themed tour of the farm, activity, and a hands-on farm task. We look forward to working and learning with you and your students!

### **A Plant's Life**

Students will become familiar with the many different crops we grow, the parts we eat, and the functions of those parts. We'll also investigate what plants need to grow and how their growth is affected by weather and seasonal change. As we explore the farm, students will have the opportunity to taste several crops and will go on a plant-part scavenger hunt around the farm.

#### **Educational Goals:**

- Students will be able to identify the major parts of common vegetable plants and the basic function of those parts.
- Students will discuss what plants need to grow and how those needs are met on a farm.
- Students will explore how plants change over the course of the growing season, how plants respond to their environment, and how the weather affects their growth.

This program compliments the following SOLs: Science- K.7, 1.4, 1.7, 2.4, 3.4, 4.4

### **Participating in Healthy Ecosystems: Community, Farm, and Soil**

Students will consider how many ecosystems exist on a farm, and how many ecosystems we regularly participate in as human beings. We'll explore the farm for examples of how various organisms—including human beings-- interact with and influence each other and will extend these examples to think about the influence we have in our community ecosystem. Because we emphasize community/ecosystem stewardship, the activity for this trip is extended time volunteering on the farm.

#### **Educational Goals:**

- Students will be able to identify that there are many different kinds of ecosystems.
- Students will consider what their role is within an ecosystem.
- Students will practice good citizenship by participating in volunteer work on the farm.
- Students will investigate and understand how plants, animals and non-living things interact with and rely on each other in a farm ecosystem.

This program compliments the following SOLs:

Science- 2.5, 3.5, 4.5, 6.9

Social Science- 1.1, 1.7, 2.1, 2.8, 2.10, 3.1, 3.11



### **Food is Medicine**

How is our health influenced by what we eat? As we explore the farm, we'll discuss all of the ways fresh fruits and veggies contribute to our health and well-being. Students will have the opportunity to taste test a variety of fresh fruits and veggies.

#### **Educational Goals:**

- Students will try a variety of fresh produce and will be able to describe what they've tasted.
- Students will be able to describe specific ways that our health is impacted by the inclusion of fresh, whole foods.
- Students will discuss the importance of keeping others healthy, and will participate in activities that help support the health of others.

This program compliments the following SOLs: Health- K.1, K.2, K.3, 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1, 4.3, 5.3

### **Soil Life**

In this program, students will consider the many living organisms that are required to produce healthy food and will see examples of how soil health affects plant health. We'll dig through cover cropped fields and compost looking for decomposers and will explore a variety of soil components in the process.

#### **Educational Goals:**

- Students will be able to identify several major decomposers in our soil and compost.
- Students will investigate how the decomposition process influences the health of our soil, our plants and our environment.
- Students will be able to explain that soil is a mixture of different sized rock particles and organic material and that soil is organized in layers underground.

This program compliments the following SOLs: Science- K.7, K.11, 2.5, 3.7, 3.8, 4.5

### **Plants and Pollinators**

During this experience, students will investigate the importance of beneficial insects on a working farm. We'll discuss the work of pollinators and the kinds of things we grow on the farm to attract and house them (including our honeybee hives). We'll also go over the parts of the flower and the relationship between pollination and fruit production. While pollinators are the focus of this lesson, we'll look for examples of other hard working, beneficial insects that help us on the farm as well.

#### **Educational Goals:**

- Students will be able to explain the importance of a healthy pollinator population on a farm and how pollination is connected to food production.
- Students will be able to identify several pollinators and predatory insects found in Virginia.
- Students will review the parts of the plant and will explore the parts of flowers specifically as well as the functions of those parts.

This program compliments the following SOLs: Science- 1.4, 2.4, 2.5, 3.4, 3.5, 3.8, 4.4, 4.5