

Please be sure to read the following as some things have changed this year. Also, be sure to forward this email to other teachers/staff members in your group, (too often the teacher who books comes prepared, having read my emails, but the rest of the staff is in the dark).

(There is a suggested parent letter and an admission form following this information)

Your day on the farm will begin with an orientation that we will do as one large group. During your time at the farm, your group will see a variety of animals including geese, turkeys, chickens, goats, sheep, ponies, horses, donkeys, and, most popular, Patches, the dog. Some of these animals are in the petting zoo that you will visit. You will also enjoy a scenic hayride, choosing a pumpkin in the pumpkin patch and spend some time finding your way through the maze. Your group (kinder and older) will also get a short lecture on farming – this could be the life cycle of a pumpkin plant, “good-bug-bad-bug” or defining the purpose of a farm. Lessons depend on age level of the students and the preference of the presenter. Your day here will end with lunch and a break under the shade of our mature cottonwood and mesquite trees.

There are many opportunities to tie your student’s experiences to the Arizona State Standards. Please take advantage of your time here and the teachable moments that a farm offers.

All teachers must read the following before your field trip.

- Please have your *total* head count (including parents and siblings) and payment ready for your school upon arrival in one sum with the **admission form** filled out (scroll down to view). This can be very tricky if you have a lot of parents driving, but it makes the check-in *much faster*. **It is your responsibility to collect money from parents and additional siblings as well as your students before arrival, otherwise serious delays may occur as we try to sort through the group.**
- This year the cost is \$7/student and \$7/sibling. This price includes a small pumpkin. Admission for parents is and \$5 and **does not include a pumpkin**. Parents can purchase their own pumpkins at the farm store. They will be weighed and priced per pound and range from \$3 on up. *Parents do not have the \$7 option. If they want a pumpkin, it will be weighed and priced per pound.* We can accept cash, check, credit and purchase orders or a combination.
- Please share with parents that they will be charged \$5 admission *even if they choose to not participate in the field trip activities*. This is an admission fee.
- Look for signs indicating bus or car-pool parking. If you arrive in a bus but have a couple parents driving in cars, they should follow the bus parking to keep your group together. Parking changes year-to-year so don’t assume you will be in the same spot as before. For the safety of children, no vehicles are permitted in the regular driveway. If you have coolers that need to be transported to the picnic area, we will do that for you.
- Once students leave the bus/cars, they will not return until it is time to leave, so lunches, water, hats etc. need to come off the bus with the kids upon arrival.
- For those of you car-pooling or using a combination of school buses and cars, please note that **we will not start your field trip until your whole group has**

- arrived.** Please assemble in the parking area. We will meet you there. After all groups have arrived, we will be closing the gate. Please emphasize this to parent drivers and discourage them from that “quick” stop at Starbucks on the way!
- DO NOT USE MAP QUEST! Please share with parents/bus drivers that these directions are wrong. Use GOOGLE Maps or just take I-19 to Exit 42, get on East Frontage Road and turn south or use the map provided in the “parent letter” below.
 - If your whole group plans on eating at our concession stand, we need a rough head counts *at least a week* before your date to ensure that we are adequately staffed and stocked.
 - Bring a few permanent markers to put child’s name on his/her pumpkin, however, *once names are written on pumpkins, kids cannot change their minds.*
 - Although we attempt a logical rotation of centers, it often does not work out that way (one group may take longer in the pumpkin patch or need a bathroom break, for example, so another may go on ahead) so, we ask that you are flexible and take advantage of the “teachable moments” that present themselves at each area.
 - Parents may purchase additional items during the lunch hour including pumpkins in the farm store and at the concession stand. The grill will open at lunchtime cooking up our grass-fed beef burgers and other foods. *Please remind parents that other vegetables, gourds etc. in the gardens are not free for the taking.*
 - This is a popular field trip and it is very unlikely that your school will be the only one here on your day.
 - There is no exact arrival time – get here when you can. We will be looking for you from between 9AM – 10:30 AM (unless other arrangements have been made).
 - Water bottles are a good idea. We do not have water fountains. Our well water is good and you are welcome to re-fill water bottles or drink from the hose as our own family frequently does. We will not provide cups. We will have water and sodas for sale at the concession stand.
 - Although we do have some tables, we recommend that you bring picnic blankets – we have lovely shaded and grassy areas for picnicking.
 - Closed-toed shoes and long pants are a good idea.

AGUA LINDA FARM

Admission form for 2009 Fall Field Trip

Please have this form filled out upon arrival. It can be filled out one per class or one per school. Parents and siblings who drive on their own *must be included on this form*. We will not take admission payments directly from parents. It creates too much confusion and can seriously delay the start of your field trip as we will not begin until the whole group is accounted for. The cost per child (student and siblings, unless not at walking age) is \$7 and includes a small pumpkin. The cost for adults is \$5 and does not include a pumpkin. They can purchase pumpkins if they want. Parents who come but “are not going to participate” will still be charged admission. Staff, including teachers, aides and bus drivers are not charged.

School:

Date:

Teacher (if filling out by class):

	Count	Admission totals
staff, no charge		\$0.00
students, \$7		\$
siblings, \$7		+ \$
parents, \$5		+ \$
	Total amount due	= \$

You can pay with cash, check, credit or purchase order or a combination of any payment methods. Please indicate how this will break down. (See sample – if you determined above that the total amount due is \$275, break down the payment details as in sample).

Purchase order	\$
Check	+ \$
Cash	+ \$
Credit	+ \$
Total amount due	= \$

Purchase order	\$ 200
Check	+ \$ 20
Cash	+ \$ 55
Credit	+ \$ 0
Total amount due	= \$275

sample

Dear Parents,

Our class will be visiting the Agua Linda Farm pumpkin patch on _____.

The admission for your child is \$7 and includes a small pumpkin. If you choose to attend, the admission cost for parents is \$5. *This does not include a pumpkin*, but you are welcome to purchase one during our visit at the farm store. Additional siblings will be charged the student rate of \$7 and will also get a pumpkin, (required, as it is impossible for farm staff to keep track of children who are students and those who are siblings). The only exception is babies who are not yet walking who will not be charged admission and will not be given a pumpkin. Agua Linda Farm has asked that we pay for our whole group at once with one payment as soon as we arrive, so I will need your admission fee before the field trip. This will save time when we get there so we can get started as soon as possible.

You are welcome to bring a picnic lunch, or, if you like, the farm's concession stand will be open serving burgers, hot dogs and drinks. Remember – this is a real farm! It is best if you and your child wear close-toed shoes, a hat and bring a water bottle, which can be refilled for free at the farm (there is no water fountain).

