



To: Maybury Farm Camp Parents

From: Darlene Egbert-Oliver, Education and Camp Supervisor  
Diana Wallace, Executive Director

Re: Maybury Farm Guidance for a smooth and fun 2024 Farm Camp Season

Maybury Farm would like to welcome your camper to the 2024 Farm Camp! We plan to make Farm Camp just as fun and enjoyable as it has been in the past. We will have fun, make friends, and learn about the animals.

The Maybury Farm Team (MFT) wants to ensure that everyone is aware of safety protocols for our 2024 Farm Camp. In this communication we will share what you and your camper need to know prior to the start of camp.

Here at the farm, we are all about "Safety First" --not only with the farm animals, but with the health and well-being of all our campers and employees. We continue to focus on keeping your campers safe and healthy while at farm camp. ***We ask that if your camper is sick, please keep them home.*** We ask that you read through the following with your camper.

**Personal Hygiene and Hand washing while at the Farm:**

Hand washing and sanitizing is one way that we can all stay safe around the farm. Throughout the day campers will be washing their hands and using hand sanitizer often. Campers will find hand sanitizer through the farm, along with signs reminding everyone of the importance of handwashing and/or hand sanitizing. Frequent hand washing and sanitizing will help protect other campers from germs we don't know about yet, as well as protecting the animals at the farm.

Camp Counselors will have hand sanitizer available for all campers after each activity, before meals, after using bathrooms, and after visits with the animals.

**Maybury Farm Team Education:**

Maybury Farm Camp will have two camp counselors and two junior camp counselors to help with the cohort groups of up to 13 campers. This helps to mitigate risk and gives a more personal approach to helping the campers enjoy their week at camp.

Where possible, the groups of up to 13 will be set up based on the ages of the campers. However, if there are concerns over the cohort groups, MF reserves the right to change the groupings.

**Activities at the Farm:**

All activities at the farm will be held outdoors. Maybury Farm Camp is a 100% outdoor camp except when the campers are in the barn. When in the barn, precautions are taken to ensure the supplies needed for the activities are disinfected for each camper.

One of the key activities at our farm camp is being with the animals. At each weekly session, the camp

counselors and barn staff will be educating campers about the animal and how to safely approach/work with the animal. The campers will also be educated in animal biosecurity.

Maybury Farm wants all campers to have fun, learn, and create friendships while here at the farm. We will be doing this with our small groups of up to 13 campers. Most activities will be rotated so that our cohort group stays together as much as possible.

Weekly tractor and wagon rides will be given to the campers. On the wagon, the campers will all go out at the same time. Hand sanitizing will take place after the campers get off the wagon.

**Communication:**

Maybury Farm counselors can be reached by phone at 248-374-0200 # 2 or by email to their individual email addresses at the end of this communication. We ask that you please “cc” a copy of your email to the [Farmteam@mayburyfarm.org](mailto:Farmteam@mayburyfarm.org) as well. The counselors and administrative team will reach out to all camper families through this email box unless it is an emergency and then the team will call or text the parents/guardian on file.

Farm Camp will be held rain or shine, hot or cold. If there are severe storms in the area, Maybury Farm will decide on whether we should continue to have Farm Camp, delay the start time, or have the campers picked up earlier than usual. Watch for emails/text messages, when severe weather is in the area, from the [farmteam@mayburyfarm.org](mailto:farmteam@mayburyfarm.org) email box, giving you updates and directions for next steps.

When you get a text message to pick up your camper earlier, they will be tucked away safely in the Maybury farmhouse. You will come to get them by entering the “employee” entrance to the farm.

We do have a covered shelter to keep the campers out of the rain. If we have a severe storm with thunder/lightning, the campers will be taken into the Maybury farmhouse where it is safer. Should a tornado pop up, campers will be in the farmhouse basement or will be taken to the Maybury State Park Tornado shelter.

**Preparation for your time at Camp:**

**What you should pack:**

1. A lunch in a lunch bag from home and two snacks (one for the morning and one for the afternoon). There is refrigeration available to keep it cold until lunch if needed. All snacks should be put into the camper’s backpack–NOT in their lunchboxes. This makes getting the snacks much easier for everyone. Please make sure that your camper has a substantial breakfast before they come to the farm. They will be constantly busy and will need the proper energy to participate. Please keep in mind that the first snack will be taken around 10:15, so campers who have not eaten breakfast will be very hungry by snack time. A second snack will be eaten by campers around 1:15-1:30 each day. \* Please note: Due to numerous nut allergies, please do NOT send any lunch or snack items which include tree nuts.
2. Each camper should bring their own reusable water bottle. We will be refilling the bottles in the general store through our water cooler. We want to keep the campers well hydrated. (Maybury Farm has well water and we do not use this water for drinking, even though it is tested and safe). We will have frequent water breaks throughout the day to ensure hydration.
3. In addition to water bottles, campers should bring their own:
  - \* Sunscreen
  - \* Bug Spray
  - \* A raincoat or rain poncho. Please: NO umbrellas, having 24 umbrellas causes issues.
  - \* Closed toed shoes–no sandals or crocs. Dress for the weather and for being on the farm.
  - \* A small towel and change of shirt in case we do water activities.

### **What NOT to Bring:**

- \* Any gaming systems (campers are here to learn, meet new friends & have fun)
- \* Toys of any kind (you don't want to lose your favorite teddy bear!) and no money
- \* A cellphone or any other technology
  - \* If you bring technology, you'll have to give it to your camp counselor for safe keeping.
  - \* If you need to get a hold of a camper, we have a phone in the General Store. Parents or Guardians please call 248-374-0200 # 3. Conversely, if the camper needs to call you, they can use the phone in the General Store.

### **What you should wear:**

- \* Wear clothes that you do not mind getting dirty in! (Or your Maybury Farm T-shirt)
- \* Wear close-toed shoes. Boots, if you have them. Absolutely no flip flops, sandals, or crocs.
- \* You should dress for the weather, if it is going to be colder wear long pants/sweaters/sweatshirt/long sleeves, something that can be layered so as it gets warmer the layers can be removed. If it is raining, a raincoat would be a good idea.

### **What NOT to wear:**

- \* Do not wear your best dress or favorite shirt--we are a farm camp. You will get dirty.
- \* Do not wear flip-flops, sandals, crocs, or heels-- they are not safe at farm camp.
- \* Do not wear jewelry (the chickens like to peck at anything shiny, even if it's in your ear!)
- \* Do not wear anything that's hard to run and play in.

### **Check-In and Pick-Up Procedures:**

#### **Check in:**

\*Parents/Guardians will bring campers to the farm between 8:45-9:00 AM. Camp starts promptly at 9:00 AM, so please do not be late as this will hold up camp from the beginning. We give key messages to the group from 9:00-9:15 AM each morning, and it is important for all campers to hear them.

\*Parents will be parking in the Maybury Farm parking lot and bringing their camper to the General Store patio for check-in.

\* Once the camper has been checked in, they will be walked to the Pavilion by one of our team members.

\* Parents/Guardian will then leave. Since the farm does not open until 10:00 AM, the parent/guardian or other siblings cannot walk around the farm to see the animals.

\* On the first day of camp each week, MF will be collecting the signed "CARES" Behavioral Agreement that we ask parents to go over with their camper. Both parents and the camper will be asked to sign the agreement to ensure that they understand the steps that need to be taken in case of behavior issues. (Our CARES agreement covers: C: Cooperation, A: Attitude, R: Respect, E: Empathy, S: Safety.) Camp counselors will go over the Cares Agreement with the campers on the first day of camp. Please note: if a camper chooses to not behave at camp, they may be dismissed for the day, week and/or future camp sessions. Maybury Farm wants camp to be a safe and enjoyable week for everyone!

\* Camp Counselors will also go over the values that we practice here at the Farm: Kindness, Respect and Gratitude. That means we will treat each other the way we want to be treated. It is easy – just be kind to everyone! We will also teach the campers how to treat the animals with respect and empathy. Please ask your camper to listen closely to what the camp counselor tells them to do. Their instructions are for both the camper's and animals' safety.

#### **Pick-Up:**

\* All campers need to be picked up at 4:00 PM sharp. The campers will be in the same location on the patio of the General Store to be signed out to the "authorized individual." Maybury Farm **DOES** require picture identification to prove the person picking up the camper is the person shown on the roster. After showing identification, the authorized individual will sign the camper out. **No campers will be released at pick up without a picture ID or being on the authorized pickup list.**

\* If campers are going to be late, and/or need to be picked up early, please contact the Maybury Farm administration office or make arrangements with the office or the camp counselor when checking in the camper. (Maybury Farm does discourage this-- we do, however, understand that at times plans may need to change. We are a small enough camp that we can collaborate with our campers.)

\* **There is a late pickup fee of \$1.00 per minute for each camper not picked up by 10 minutes after the camp sessions ends (4:00 PM). This is paid as you pick the camper up.**

\* In case of emergency/severe weather, MF will communicate to the parents through email and by text message. We will give specific instructions such as where to pick up the camper. Typically, if the farm closes early, the campers will be picked up at the MF farmhouse. (This is the white house located at the employee entrance of 8 Mile, between the Maybury Farm public entrance and Maybury State Park.)

If for any reason your camper is not going to be at camp for the day, please notify us immediately so that we don't hold up the start of the camp activities for the day waiting for their arrival.

### **In closing:**

Maybury Farm is a State of Michigan Licensed Day Camp and follows all Guidelines/Recommendations issued by LARA/MDHHS/MIOSHA and best practices by the CDC. The State of Michigan has recommendations and guidelines that MF will be following to keep every camper safe. Health and Safety is a priority here at the farm. **Per state requirements, Maybury Farm requires that all Campers turn in a Health History Record Certification Form that is due by 6/1/2024.** The form, which is on our website, is also being sent to each camp family with your registration confirmation. The form needs to be completed by the camper's authorized individual following the instructions listed. Please note that a complete immunization history including information regarding COVID vaccines, where applicable, is required before attendance at camp. We do promote all campers getting their COVID vaccines for the safety of others. If you have any questions, you can call us at 248-374-0200 # 2, including questions about immunization waivers. If the **camper does not turn in the Health History Record Certification form, they cannot attend camp.** No refund will be given for the cancellation of camp due to not turning in the form and camp session being canceled.

**Medication:** If you need to send medication to camp, please place the medication and directions in a sealed plastic bag with the camper's name on the bag and on the medication. All instructions regarding your child must be in writing and parents or guardians need to place a call to the Maybury Farm Administrative Office (248-374-0200 # 2).

**EPI Pens:** If your camper will be coming to camp with an epi-pen, please let us know by sending an email to [farmteam@mayburyfarm.org](mailto:farmteam@mayburyfarm.org). Please let us know as early as possible so that we can include that information on the roster for the camp counselor to know at time of check-in. Counselors will carry the epi-pens with them.

### **Sick Campers:**

There may be a time when your camper is not feeling well. **If they are sick, please stay home!**

It is important that all children are well, hydrated, free of any symptoms, and ready to participate when they come to camp. Maybury Farm relies on each family to ensure their camper is following all the safety measures here at the farm and at home as well. We also recommend vaccinations when a camper can get one.

If you need to reach the management team at Maybury Farm, below are your contacts:

- \* Darlene (Education and Camp Supervisor) – [darlene@mayburyfarm.org](mailto:darlene@mayburyfarm.org)
- \* Diana (Executive Director) - [diana@mayburyfarm.org](mailto:diana@mayburyfarm.org)
- \* Connie (Administrator & Farm Education Coordinator) - [connie@mayburyfarm.org](mailto:connie@mayburyfarm.org)
- \* General Information – [FarmTeam@mayburyfarm.org](mailto:FarmTeam@mayburyfarm.org)
- \* Phone Number 248-374-0200 # 2 -- General Store 248-374-0200 # 3

