Visitor Orientation

Get an accountability record and claim your group! Confirm with your teacher the required information and report back to _____ and the main accountability document. Make sure payment has been received for everyone in your group before proceeding. Parents, etc. should have paid the school and are included in the school payment OR they must pay here. Children under 2 are free.

Blow your whistle to get everyone’s attention and to keep your group together when moving from place to place. Be certain the adults are listening to the rules.

If you go to the barnyard first, all of the rules can be discussed at one time.
If you go to other locations first, discuss rules before proceeding. Discuss barnyard rules before entering the barnyard area.

My name is ____________ and I’ll be your leader today. We’d like to welcome you to Old McDonald’s Farm. We do have a few rules here that must be followed. So let’s put our bunny ears on and listen.

“Bunny ears, bunny ears, flapping in the breeze, listen to me for a minute, please.”

This is very important, so please listen.

- Teachers and parents, we do need you to make sure everyone is listening and help us follow the rules.
- We must stay together as a group. We don’t want anyone to get lost or miss anything.
- The bathrooms are located over there (point).
- First aid kits are available for your use. We have several locations. Just ask a farm hand for help.
- Food and drinks are allowed only in the picnic areas. This is for your safety.
- We do have water coolers at the maze entrance. Please use them in that area.
- We have drinks, snacks, and water for sale if you need anything for lunch. They can be purchased at either of the two picnic areas.
- We have cider, jellies, dressings, and salsa for sale. All are NC products.
- You can get your fall decorations here, too. Pumpkins, gourds, mums, straw bales, Indian corn
- Do we have any smokers? I hope not ‘cause smoking is not allowed anywhere, anytime. That is for your safety, my safety and our animals’ safety.
- We try to make sure you will have a safe visit, but if you see something that is concerning, please tell us.
- Fire Ants are a major problem. We look for them every day but they can easily be missed. Let us know if you see any.
- Since this is a school fieldtrip, we have to learn something. What am I doing? (walk around) I’m walking, that’s right, but on Old McDonald’s Farm we “mosey”. So, come on, follow me. Let’s mosey along to ____________.
Barnyard Safety  The barnyard consists of animals, well, outhouse, bone room. Watch/communicate with other leaders to assure your rotations go smoothly. Try to visit all the animals at one time. This prevents multiple hand washings. Hands MUST be washed with soap/water before moving from any animal to another exhibit.

- While we’re visiting the animals, we can’t have any pacifiers, bottles, sippy cups, food or drinks out. We don’t want to swap slobber with the animals, you know, you take a sip, give the sheep a sip, and then you take another. Yuck—sheep slobber. And if you suck your thumb, just keep it tucked in your pocket. This is also to keep you safe. Make sure you keep your hands down by your side, don’t put them in your mouth and don’t put them in anyone else’s mouth—yuck. REMIND them OFTEN to keep their hands down by their sides and out of their mouths.
- Fences and gates are for keeping animals in and people out. So make sure you’re on the right side of the fence. And we keep our feet on the ground, fences are not for climbing.
- Remember, animals have teeth and they may bite. Keep your fingers and hands out of the pens unless we say you can pet the animals.
- We have hand sanitizer and wipes available for your use anytime and we will wash hands with soap and water when we finish visiting the animals.

Cow – Slushy—What do we get from a cow?
milk, ice cream, butter, cheese, yogurt, hamburger, steak, stew beef, ribs, leather for shoes, belts, coats, wallets
There are 2 kinds of cows, beef or meat cows and dairy or milk cows. Slushy is a Black Angus beef cow.

Donkeys --Sam and Shorty--Pack animals—they can carry heavy loads—they are hard workers.
And God gave them a very special gift. They’re the only animal on earth that has a cross on their back. There is a dark line that runs between their ears, down their neck and back, all the way down their tail and another that goes across the shoulders. Mother Mary rode a donkey before Jesus was born and Jesus rode a donkey before he died.

Sheep --Chester What is a sheep’s hair called? Wool
What do we get from sheep’s wool? Coat, socks, gloves, scarf, sweater

Pigs – ____________ What do we get from pigs? Sausage, ham, bacon, pork chops, hot dogs
Pigs can’t sweat to cool off. That’s why they like to roll around in the mud. It keeps them cool and it’s like sunscreen. It covers their skin so they don’t get sunburned.

Chickens-silkies Sam, Sue, Cindy Lou
Feathers on their feet like bedroom shoes, lay small white eggs

Tortoise --Spike-- African Spur Tortoise-- vegetarian–likes tomatoes, corn, cucumbers, apples
5 years old can live to be 100, weighs about 10 pounds can grow to 400 pounds
Tortoise likes dry land, Turtle likes mud and water

Rabbit--___________
See how big his ears are? He can hear everything and he can run really fast. If you don’t believe me, you should try catching him when he gets out!

Turkeys -- Hank, the boy, tom—Hilda, the girl, hen;
The boy turkey gobbles, the girls hums and clucks
Identify the snood, waddle, beard; count to 3 and gobble together

Chickens -Red earlobes-lay brown eggs; White earlobes-lay white eggs; gray legs-lay green eggs
Dr. Suess’s book “Green Eggs and Ham” There really are green eggs.

**Goats**—They must listen to instructions before they can feed the goats. Everyone will get a cup of feed. Pour the feed in your hand and put your hand through the fence, hold it out flat. They will lick the feed out of your hand. They won’t bite, they don’t like fingers anyway. They don’t have any top teeth. Do you have all of your teeth? You will have goat slobber on your hands, so keep them down by your side. When you finish, put the empty cup in the bucket and line up on the rocks. We’ll go wash our hands with soap and water now.

**Horses**—Black one is DeeDee, big brown and white one is Socks, Red one is Maggie, baby is Maybelline
All girls, the daddy lives on another farm. You will see them on the hayride or maybe when you came in or leave. They may be in the pasture by the pond.

**Hand washing Station** -- Hands MUST be washed with soap and water after visiting the animals.
Sanitizer and wipes are NOT a substitute for washing.
Assist with hand washing at all times. If someone comes to station, we need to turn water on/off to prevent waste. Turn water on, apply soap, wash hands, wrists, between fingers for 15-20 seconds. Sing “Old MacDonald had a farm and on that farm he washed his hands, with a scrub-scrub here and a scrub-scrub there.” Rinse. Dry with a paper towel. Throw towel in trash.

**Well**—Before we had sinks in our homes, you had to get buckets and walk down to the pond or branch for your water. If you were lucky, you had a well. A well is a deep, deep hole in the ground. This is a pretend well. It was the children’s job to get the water.
Each cow or horse would need about 5-6 buckets of water every day. You had to get water for chickens, goats, donkeys, washing clothes, washing dishes, cooking, your garden, and your baths. You may have to get 50 or more buckets of water every day.
1 gallon of water weighs 8 pounds. If age appropriate, ask addition or multiplication questions.
Let each child pull up a bucket of water. Refill the well while your group is there if possible.

**Outhouse**—Before we had bathrooms in our homes, there were outhouses. You had to go out behind the house to use the bathroom. The moon on the door tells us it’s a girl’s bathroom. A star would mean it’s a boys. The hole lets light and air in. This is a 2 seater, it has 2 holes, so 2 people can sit side by side and have a conversation while taking care of business. There was no toilet paper, they used corn cobs and corn shucks. If they were lucky, they had paper, maybe a catalog, just wrinkle it up to make it softer. When all that was gone, someone had to go to the woods to gather leaves. A stick was always kept close by. It’s called a web stick and was used to remove the spider webs before you sat down. They always kept their Bible here. This was one of the few places mama and daddy could get away from all their children. They would read their bible and talk to God while they were in here. This is a slop jar or pee pot. It was used in the house at night or during bad weather. Would you want to come outside at night or when it was raining or snowing? It was usually kept in a corner or under the bed and the children had to clean it out each morning so it would be ready for the next night. Allow 2-3 children to enter at a time to look.

**Bone Room**—This room has things that you can pick up, touch and feel. Please make sure you put them back where they belong. Move up to the end of the hallway, turn around and look above the lights at the blob of mud. Barn swallow nest. The mama and daddy barn swallows gather dirt in their mouths, mix it with bird slobber and spit it out to make their nest. Allow group to enter bone room and meander around. You can explain each item or just let them explore on their own as you move around and chat as they ask questions. Stay about 5 minutes and move on.