



Dear Parents,

Thank you for your interest in our Teen Leadership Program (TL). This program is designed to provide opportunities for teenagers to develop leadership skills and self-confidence. It provides a meaningful summer experience for teens that enjoy being outside and like interacting with younger children. It may also meet the criteria for volunteer/service hours that is required by some local schools.

Through participation, teens learn about themselves, their interests, their strengths and have opportunities to share their talents. They learn teamwork and social skills, develop a work ethic, and serve as role models for our campers.

With involvement at this level comes an expectation of responsibility, that when handled with age appropriate maturity, will reap meaningful experiences and plant seeds for personal growth. All programs on the farm encourage a healthy lifestyle, teach stewardship and sustainability, and model socially responsible ways to impact today's society.

13 is the minimum age requirement, although some teens who are 13 are not ready to take on this responsibility, particularly at the beginning of the summer. We encourage all parents to have a conversation with your teenager and/or our staff before deciding which program will best serve the needs and maturity level of your son/daughter. Some teenagers who are 13 would benefit from spending more time as a camper in our Sowers & Growers Program before applying for acceptance into our TL Program. **Tls aged 13** will be assigned a mentor (either a veteran TL or a camp staff member), to work with during morning activities. From 1:15 pm – 2:15 pm they can choose to participate in free play as a "camper" before returning to their peers to complete late day chores.

This year we will be providing/implementing some more educational opportunities for our teen leaders. Also, Tls 14+ who will be on the farm for several weeks will be working with a staff member to lead a group activity and/or completing a special interest project. See below.

Working with children in any capacity these days is an expensive endeavor, mainly due to liability exposure. Even though our teen leaders are volunteers, it requires staff to oversee, organize and provide educational opportunities. The curriculum offered in our Leadership Program is made possible through participation fees and private contributions.

As a core principle, we strive to form meaningful relationships with each other, build bridges of collaboration with our local community, and continue a deep connection with nature. Thank you for supporting our farm's mission and encouraging your teen to apply for this program. Whether on the farm for one week or for most of the summer, we look forward to the opportunity to work hand-in-hand on the land with youth this season.

Warmly,

Cindi Hughes, Education Director

Process for Application

1. Fill out online application selecting age and availability along with answering some general questions. Questions are directed to parents and teens.
2. A \$15 fee is due at time of application. Your application will not be reviewed until fee is received. That fee will be applied to the total participation fee if your child is accepted into the program. The remaining balance for participation is due by May 11th. If that creates a financial challenge, please contact us to make alternative payment arrangements.
3. Participation fees have been tiered by weeks of participation, and by age.
4. A member of our administration will be meeting/talking with each applicant to ensure all participants understand our expectations and are committed to the mission of the farm. During informal conversation or through a questionnaire we will identify and set individual goals.
5. It is expected that teen leaders attend the Pres-Season Orientation Meeting on Saturday, May 11 from 12:30 – 4:30 pm. If your teen is unable to attend orientation meeting due to a scheduling conflict, it is up to the teen leader (TL) to propose/schedule an alternative time for pre-season orientation.
6. Following meeting or submission/review of questionnaire, Applicants will be notified of acceptance into this program.

Tiered Pricing Scale

Teen Leaders 13 – 15 year olds

- 1 week - \$50
- 2 weeks - \$100
- 3 weeks - \$140
- 4 weeks - \$170
- 5 weeks - \$200
- 6 weeks - \$225
- 7 – 10 weeks – Total cost \$250

Teen Leaders 16+

- 1 week \$35/week
- 2 weeks \$70
- 3 weeks \$100
- 4-5 weeks – Total cost \$125
- 6- 10 weeks – Total cost \$150

Leadership Demonstration for TLs aged 14

Participants that are on the farm for 3 or more weeks are asked to propose and lead an activity that will enhance our camper's experience at farm camp. TLs will work with a teacher or farm camp staff to lead their activity. After leading the activity, TLs will prepare a short reflection about their experience. Reflection could be written, podcast, power point, video, etc. TLs are encouraged to be creative with the reflection activity. The reflection will also include the rewards and challenges of being a leader and identify what they learned and what campers learned from the activity.

TLs aged 15+ that are on the farm for 6 or more weeks will take their leadership skills to the next level by completing a **Special Interest Project**. Projects must be approved by the administrative staff, and a staff member or selected adult will serve as the project mentor. Projects must meet one or more of these criteria ~ good for the environment, good for the farm, good for the community. Portions of the project will require independent work. The projects will be the focus of our theme Jun 24-28 and other sessions as aligned with session themes. After completing the special interest project, TLs will write a short reflection about their project/experience. Reflection could be written, podcast, power point, video, etc. TLs are encouraged to be creative with the reflection activity. The reflection should also identify skills learned, any challenges encountered, criteria met, and how the project impacted our community.

Please note: This is a day program. No overnight lodging is available.

Arrival/Pickup

TLs should plan to arrive by 8:15 am and remain at Farm Camp until 3:45 pm. They may arrive as early as 7:15 am and stay until as late as 6 pm. If they will be arriving late or leaving early, they should notify administration. If arriving late they should check-in with administration upon arrival. If they are leaving early, they need to check in with administration before leaving the facility. We will provide additional information about the logistics of this program at Pre-Season Orientation.

Contact Information

Cindi Hughes – Cellphone 717.333.1588
Office – 717.653.4232

GPS Address: 1875 Milton Grove Road, Mount Joy, PA 17552

Packing List

- Hat
- Sturdy, closed-toed shoes for work projects (no sandals)
- Water bottle
- NUT-FREE hearty snack and lunch
- Weather appropriate clothing (we play outside....so dress for outdoor weather success!)
- Bathing suit for after camp socials (as announced)

Nut-free Policy: As part of the ongoing awareness of HCFC, our camp administrators have decided to adhere to a TOTAL NUT FREE policy. Teens need to be mindful of any products containing nuts when preparing lunches and snacks.