

Michigan State University Extension Tollgate Farm and Education Center

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23

MSU TOLLGATE FARM SUMMER CAMP



Welcome to the 2023 Summer Camp Season!

MSU Tollgate Farm Camp is so thrilled to have another summer of adventures and learning on the farm! From caring for animals and cooking fresh food, to canoeing and fishing, there's something for everyone. Check out what we have in store for your camper!

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A BREIF LOOK AT THIS CAMP SEASON:

- Green Science Adventure
- All About Animals
- Earth Engineers
- Sprouts
- Young Vets
- Survival
- Splish Splash Water
- Chopped Challenge Food

**Plus Winter
and Spring
Break Camps!**

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What is MSU Tollgate Farm Camp All About?

At MSU Tollgate Farm Camp, both for our summer camps and winter/spring break camps, participants will be assigned to a developmentally-appropriate group of 10-12 campers for a week of farm adventure, education, and fun! Activities are created with experiential and inquiry-based methods in order to engage campers in the science of the world around them and are led by environmental educators and trained staff.

Regardless of the week's theme, participants will spend lots of time with the farm animals and everyone will have the opportunity to perform some of the farm "chores" such as collecting eggs and milking the goats. We will be outdoors hiking, engaging in games, and paying attention to wild and domestic life on the farm. We will also visit the forest and pond for even more hands-on exploration of the natural world.

For a visual guide to our programs, and to continue the learning process at home, be sure to check out the weekly blog posts from previous years! Check out our [Summer Camp Blog!](#)

2023 Summer Camp Schedule

<p>June 26th - 30th</p>	<p>Green Science Adventure (Ages 6-12): Sustainability is key to keeping our farm, and our entire world, healthy for ourselves and the next generation! In addition to participating in daily life on the farm, campers will learn the science behind how we can continue and improve these practices, even coming up with their own through a week-long STEAM project!</p>
	<p>English Riding Horse Camp (Ages 9-14): Come and learn about the history and many styles of English Riding discipline, including jumping, Dressage, racing, Saddle seat, endurance riding and polo! Experience the horses up close and personal during grooming and saddling sessions and of course learning proper equitation of English riding. <u>You do not need a horse to participate.</u></p>
<p>July 10th - 14th</p>	<p>Animal Camp (Ages 6-12): It's all about animals this week! Tollgate is home to many animals, both in its forests and in its barns. Learn how we can work with animals and how some animals even work for us through activities such as our STEAM project, sheep to sweater, nest building, and a goat hike!</p>
	<p>Winged Wonders Camp (Ages 10-13): Specialty camps are for the slightly older camper interested in a unique Tollgate adventure. Tollgate has banded together with Kellogg Biological Station in Hickory Corners, Michigan to offer this exploration of wild and domestic birds through interactive, hands-on science learning. Become an ornithologist and study birds and their amazing feats as we hike the fields and forests of MSU Tollgate Farm and Kellogg Bird Sanctuary. Meet at Tollgate for farm-based birding adventures Monday and Friday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. As field scientists, travel by bus to KBS and camp out under the stars Tuesday through Thursday. Meet birds up close and personal, make new friends, and have lots of fun! Transportation and tents provided.</p>
<p>July 17th - 21st</p>	<p>Young Vets Camp (Ages 6-12): Do you know any campers with a passion for caring for animals? This year, we will be adding an option for young vets to learn the basics of how to keep their furry friends healthy and how to intervene when necessary. Participants will gain hands-on experience</p>

	<p>with animals, learn from professional vets, and partake in other fun activities!</p>
	<p>Western Riding Horse Camp (Ages 9-14): Do you know what the horn is for on a western saddle? Want to learn to lasso? Let us teach you about the history of western riding and why cowboys wear chaps! Learn all about all the different contests that take place at a rodeo and western horse shows. Sessions will include horse care and management, and of course time in a saddle! <u>You do not need a horse to participate.</u></p>
<p>July 24th - 28th</p>	<p>Earth Engineers/Engineering with Nature (Ages 6-12): Campers will get to take a deeper look at how expertly the natural world builds and functions on its own, full of patterns and structures. They will then get to take this information and learn how to work with and be inspired by nature in their own engineering endeavors building beaver dams, solar ovens, and even their own hurricane-safe houses.</p>
	<p>Sprouts Camp (Ages 4-5): Tollgate welcomes its youngest campers to build their love for the natural world and discover all that it has to offer! This week of half-day camps offers opportunities for hands-on exploration, fresh foods, and meeting new friends!</p>
<p>July 31st - August 4th</p>	<p>Survival Camp (Ages 6-12): Do you have what it takes? You definitely will after this week! Campers will gain skills in first aid, shelter building, and fire safety, while also learning how to take care of the space they are exploring so that it can exist for years to come. At the end of the week, campers will get to put their skills to the test during a day of "survival"!</p>
	<p>Outdoor Adventure Camp (Ages 12-14): Take survival camp to a whole new level and challenge yourself with exciting wilderness skill-building experiences. Test your limits in the forest and fields of Tollgate as you develop a survival mindset. Try your hand at fire-building, wilderness first aid, outdoor cooking, shelter-building, climbing, and team-building trust initiatives. Travel by bus for a tubing and paddling adventure on the Huron River. A Thursday overnight cookout and campout on the farm are included.</p>

August 7th - 11th	<p>Splish Splash Water Camp (Ages 6-12): Water: we can't live without it! Come learn about the element that shapes our lives and the geographical world around us through exploring pond life, canoeing, water filtration, and boat building!</p>
	<p>Equine Science Horse Camp (Ages 9-14): Have you thought about what it would be like to own a horse? Horse care and management, including grooming, saddling, health and nutrition are just some of the amazing topics at horse camp! And, of course, you will be able to enjoy the horses up close and personal as you gain horseback riding skills during your equine adventures at MSU Tollgate Farm. You do not need a horse to participate. <u>You do not need a horse to participate.</u></p>
August 14th - 18th	<p>Tollgate Chopped Challenge Food Camp (Ages 6-12): Calling all budding chefs for the competition of the season! While learning about food in all of its stages, campers also get the STEAM challenge of creating their very own recipe incorporating seasonal crops from Tollgate to present to a panel of judges.</p>

2023 Winter/Spring Break Camps

February 20th - 21st	<p>Wild Winter Break Camp (Ages 6-12): Don't hibernate this winter! Come to the farm to learn about all the wonders of winter in Michigan. Together, we will be exploring first-hand how animals adapt, the science of snow, and what a farm does during the cold months. Weather permitting, we will also get a chance to adapt ourselves to the great outdoors through activities such as ice fishing, cooking food over an open fire (that you will build yourself!), and creating our own cardboard sleds. You won't want to miss it!</p>
March 27th - 31st	<p>S.T.E.A.M. Break Camp (Ages 6-12): Springtime: the most exciting time on the farm! Come see and care for all of the new life on the farm, from chicks to kids, as well as explore the fields and forests as the seasons change. Campers will also get to build a week-long S.T.E.A.M. project centering around the science of spring - truly a time of wonder-filled fun!</p>

Sample Day Schedule (from 2022 Earth Engineers)	
8:45 - 9:15	Gathering: After being dropped-off, campers gather in their pepper groups, put away their bags, and play games.
9:15 - 9:30	Flag Ceremony: All pepper groups gather to raise the flag, recite the 4-H pledge, and discover what activities are scheduled for the day.
9:30 - 10:10	Animal Chores: Campers care for the chickens, ducks, rabbits, and kids, as well as milking the goats!
10:10 - 10:55	CSA Visit: Once a week, campers get the opportunity to visit the Community Supported Agriculture fields to learn about the science and technology involved in farming, as well as help with weekly crops.
10:55 - 11:35	Solar S'mores: Harness the power of the sun to cook your own tasty treat!
11:35 - 12:10	Garden Kitchen: Make a nutritious snack from scratch. This morning's recipe is Sweet Potato Pancakes!
12:10 - 12:45	Lunch: Pepper groups reconvene to eat their sack lunches, play games, and recharge for the second half of the day.
12:45 - 1:30	Garden Time: Today's visit to the Edu Garden includes building a spooky scarecrow and learning about different methods to keep unwanted critters out.
1:30 - 2:15	Game Time: Eat this morning's solar s'mores, practice the camper-lead skit for Friday's performance, and play games!
2:15 - 2:55	STEAM Hurricane House: Design and build a house that can survive a hurricane (and put it to the test on Friday)!
2:55 - 3:35	Garden Kitchen: This afternoon's recipe is Ginger Green Beans.
3:35 - 3:45	Reflection: Each member of the pepper group takes time to share what they learned and enjoyed, as well as how they hope to continue to grow tomorrow.
3:45 - 4:00	Pick-Up: After this time, there is a limited number of aftercare spots from 4:00-5:30 for families unable to arrange for someone to pick-up their campers.

4-H Registration

MSU Tollgate Farm Camp and Stewards Program are part of Michigan 4-H youth development. By enrolling your camper or steward, you also agree to register as 4-H Member in Oakland County for the current 4-H enrollment year, September 1st 2022 - August 31st 2023, incurring no extra fees.

4-H is a learn-by-doing, fun, educational program, helping youth in their growth and development and compliments experiences received at home, school and other organizations. With the help of caring adult volunteers, 4-H helps young people gain the skills they need to be successful. As a member of 4-H, there are many other opportunities to get your camper or steward involved, including approximately 50 4-H clubs in Oakland County where members work with a large variety of project areas including agriculture, aerospace, community service, horses, science and technology and more. Questions regarding 4-H? Contact Deb Morgan at morgan194@anr.msu.edu.

Registration Costs

\$175: [Sprouts Camp](#); [Wild Winter Break Camp](#)

\$375: [S.T.E.A.M. Break Camp](#); [Green Science Adventure](#), [Animal, Young Vets, Earth Engineers, Survival, Splish Splash Water, Chopped Challenge, Western Riding, English Riding, and Equine Science Camps](#)

\$425: [Winged Wonders](#) and [Outdoor Adventure Camp](#)

Aftercare: Prices vary depending on camp size and length, ranging from \$20-\$60/camper

Financial Aid

MSU Tollgate Farm and Education Center is dedicated to offering hands-on, experiential learning opportunities to the entire community. Finances should not be a barrier to learning and we understand the reality of many families' situations.

All of our camps have a need-based financial aid application process, which can cover up to 50% of registration costs and **open on January 1st**. All applications are reviewed on an ongoing basis by a group of diverse community members until all funds are allocated. For the sake of privacy, all information is kept confidential and on file for one year.

Click [here](#) to find out more and apply: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/2023financialaid/>

Camp Mission

Camp at MSU Tollgate Farm is a fun and enriching opportunity to experience the natural world hands-on. With 160 acres of beautiful farm and forest to explore, our camps offer the best in farm and food, discovery science, and natural resource exploration. We place significant value in the experiential model of "Do, Reflect, Apply", allowing campers to take the experience and relate it back to concepts learned in the classroom. In doing so, young people are empowered to be in charge of their own learning, instilling a passion for self-directed, life-long exploration.

C.A.R.E.S. Contract

In order to foster this fun and enriching learning environment, MSU Tollgate Farm Camp staff, stewards, and campers all follow a set of behavioral expectations that we refer to as C.A.R.E.S. (see below for explanation and examples) Before attending camp, each camper must go over these expectations with their guardian and sign a contract agreeing to these standards.

During the camp week, each of the pepper groups' Educational Leaders will have their eye out for campers exhibiting C.A.R.E.S. and acknowledge their positive example and contribution to their group as a whole. Every year, we are so impressed with the young people who attend our camps, both because of the strengths they bring and how much they grow in such a short period of time.

C.A.R.E.S Sample	
Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Follow directions. ● Listen to your groupmates. ● Work as a team.
Attitude	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Come ready to have fun! ● Come ready to try new things!
Respect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Please follow KYHFOOTY: "Keep your hands, feet, and other objects to yourself." ● Kindness should be shown to all campers, staff, and guests at all times. ● Be gentle with plants and animals on the Tollgate grounds. ● Clean up after yourself. ● Please use an indoor voice in enclosed spaces such as the Hoop House, Animal Barn, and Garden Kitchen.
Empathy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● "Put yourself in the other person's shoes." ● Include others in all activities. ● Lend a helping hand to anyone who needs it.
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stay with your team at ALL times. ● Please walk, not run, on the Tollgate property, and please stay on the paths while in the garden.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Wash your hands after visiting animals.● Be ready to drink lots of water!● Wear protective clothing (hats, closed-toed shoes, long sleeves, etc.) and sunscreen.● Please do not share your food.
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Health Concerns

Food and Allergies

MSU Tollgate Summer Camp is a peanut and tree nut free camp. **Please do not pack any peanut or tree nut product in your campers lunch.** We ask that you provide your child with a healthy, nutritious sack lunch for each day of camp, as well as a reusable water bottle with your child's name on it. Campers will be making a snack twice daily, but it is important to pack a sufficiently nutritious lunch since they will be active all day.

Dress for Success

Since we spend all our days outside, closed-toe shoes and socks with comfortable clothing are necessities. Choose comfortable, rugged clothes, shoes or boots that can get muddy and mucky. Sunscreen should be applied in the morning before camp and we will continue to re-apply as needed throughout the day.

Heat

Our camp schedule remains the same on warm days. Some activities may be minimized including hiking (though the forest is naturally air conditioned) or planting in the garden. All of our other outdoor activities are under or near a tree or other shade, which helps when campers need to cool off. Additionally, camp groups are encouraged to slow down and drink more water. Water fun is often added to our very hot summer camp days!

Medical Procedures

If your child requires medication while at camp, we ask for compliance with the following standards:

- All medications are in their original containers bearing the pharmacy label and camper name—and have specific instructions for use.
- The camper must be able to administer the medication with the exception of emergency situations.
- Medications are current, not expired.

- All medications are registered with the camp staff in order to monitor each dose.

All campers with severe allergies must provide an Allergy Emergency Action Plan. This should include the triggers of the reaction, signs of the reaction, and necessary steps if a reaction should occur. If your child requires an EpiPen, your camp leader will have this on their person at all times.

Camp Staff

All of the staff that campers interact with, whether they are educational leaders, garden kitchen leaders, or communications staff, are selected from a highly-qualified group of applicants who are certified teachers, biologists, environmental educators, and agronomists, all trained in the experiential model of learning and positive youth development principles. Just as we hold our campers to a high standard with the C.A.R.E.S. contract, we want them to see it exemplified firstly through the leaders.

Each staff member goes through various background checks, a thorough interview process, and multi-week training before working at camp, so as to ensure your camper's safety and well-being.

Customer Reviews

"My kids love spending time at the farm. We are grateful for the hands on, outdoor programs."

"Can't wait to attend next year"

"My kid loved all the activities and learned a lot. He keeps asking us to cook some of the dishes he made at camp"

"Beautiful camp!"

"I went here for the survival camp, honestly I loved it, great atmosphere, and great place all around. Definitely coming back next year"