

KENSINGTON METROPARK
FARM CENTER



SCHOOL PROGRAMS



GETTING STARTED

Group reservations can be made by calling the Nature Center at 810-227-8917 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., daily, or email **kensington.naturecenter@metroparks.com**. All reservations must be made at least two weeks in advance.

To schedule a program, have the following information ready:

- date and time you would like to visit
- number of children
- activities you would like to schedule
- school address, email address and phone number

COST

IN-PARK

Programs are \$3 per student per hour, \$45 minimum charge per group. For schools outside of Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne Counties, programs are \$4 per student per hour. Vehicle Permit required for park entry, excluding school buses.

EDVENTURE

These programs are at your school. Additional staff charges may apply.

Cost is \$100 for the first program, \$75 for additional programs the same day. There is a maximum of four programs per day, with 30 students per program (*subject to change due to topic choice*).

PAYMENT

- We accept all forms of payment: cash, check, Visa, Mastercard and Discover. Make checks out to HCMA.
- Payment is due on the date of your program prior to the program start.

CONFIRMATION

A confirmation email will be sent after you schedule an appointment.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Programs are one hour in length, and there is a maximum of four programs per visit.
- Programs are available Monday – Friday, on the hour, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Not all programs are available year-round. See program descriptions on the following pages for details.
- Group size requirements are a maximum of 35 people (children and adults) per program.
- Pets are not allowed.

CONTENT EXPECTATIONS

All programs meet the Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCE), the Next Generation Science Standards and Common Core standards.

RENTALS

The Farm Center has a heated classroom available for rent. Open to groups and the general public, this room is conveniently located off the main barn. It can comfortably seat approximately 60 to 80 people and its available tables and chairs can be configured in a number of ways. The room also has a kitchenette, whiteboard, projector screen and wifi is available. Great for birthday parties! Rentals start at \$100. Call the main park office at 810-227-8910 to make a reservation.

SOUVENIRS

We carry a small amount of stuffed animals, honey sticks and other farm goods. Prices vary according to item.

TAKE YOUR CLASS ON A DIFFERENT KIND OF FIELD TRIP!

Down on the farm, your students will learn as they experience the excitement of meeting a one-ton horse or tiny newborn pig, the wonder of making a sugary treat from the trees or the magic of a building style learned from the birds. And since you will be visiting a Metropark, why not also schedule a visit with the Nature Center to add a wild component to your trip?

Now available, the farm can also come to your school! Students can learn about and meet some of our farm animals right within their own classroom with our new in-school live animal EDventure programs.

Kensington Farm Center is home to many species of domestic animals. Horses, cows, pigs, sheep, donkeys, goats, chickens, ducks, geese and rabbits are all permanent residents of the farm. You will also notice different body shapes, patterns and colors since there are a variety of breeds represented at the Farm Center. Brown Swiss or Holstein? Saanen or French Alpine? Look for the signs posted around the farm with interesting information and help on how to recognize the different breeds.

BABIES

Many of our animals live their whole lives at the farm, so you can visit them each time you stop by. We also welcome new animals every year as many animals are born at Kensington Farm. Though births happen throughout the year, spring is the season when most farm babies are expected. Visit often to see which newborns or hatchlings have arrived. Many babies have even been born right before our visitors' eyes!

PETTING

You don't have to just stand there! Some of our goats and cows really enjoy a good back scratch. As you visit the farm, feel free to pet animals that approach you. We encourage gentle contact with the farm animals and that's what some of them even expect.

FEEDING IS NOT ALLOWED

Our animals at Kensington Farm are on controlled diets. Just like kids, animals thrive when they are fed only nutritious foods and do not eat snacks all day. Hand-feeding encourages bad habits that we want to avoid, so we ask that you do not feed the animals.



Pile onto our straw-filled wagon for a rustic ride pulled by a team of our draft horses or a scenic ride pulled by our tractor! If there's enough snow,* enjoy an old-fashioned sleigh ride instead. All rides (public or charter) are wheelchair accessible and are subject to change to tractor-drawn at any time.

**Enough snow refers to a minimum base layer of 6 to 8 inches.*

PICK YOUR PUMPKIN HAYRIDES

Enjoy a seasonal tradition throughout October! Take in the fall colors of the farm and riverside on a hayride to our huge pumpkin patch. More of a pumpkin field than a patch, have fun, wander and take your time selecting your perfect Jack o' Lantern. We grow pumpkins and gourds in a variety of popular colors, shapes and sizes. Then hop back on the wagon for a relaxing return trip.

Saturdays & Sundays

Noon – 4 p.m.

Weekdays

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

No reservation needed.

Pumpkins and gourds are priced according to size. All weekday hayrides are tractor-drawn. Standard hayride rates apply.

RATE

Adults	\$5
Children 3 – 12	\$3
Children 2 & Younger	Free
Seniors 62 & Older	\$3

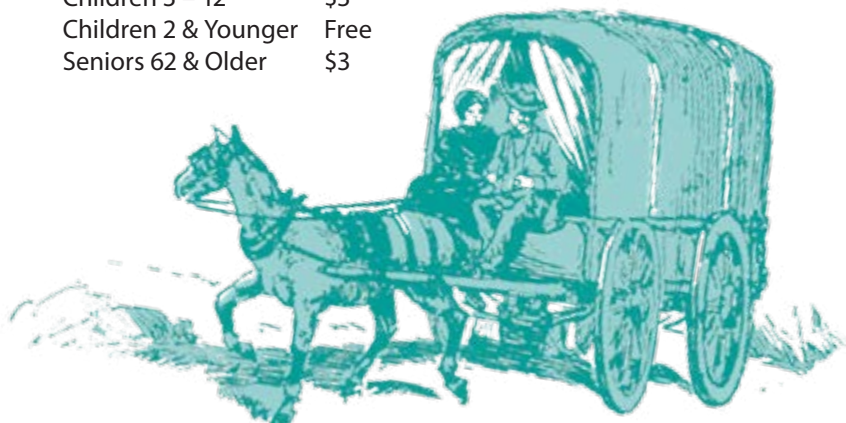
CHARTERED GROUP RIDES

Day and evening group rides are available for private charter. To schedule, please call the Park Office at 810-227-8910 a minimum of 10 days in advance. The wagons can accommodate approximately 20 passengers per ride.

Day reservations are available from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays. During the months of May & October, chartered day rides will be offered Monday – Friday.

RATE

½ hour \$50



EDVENTURES

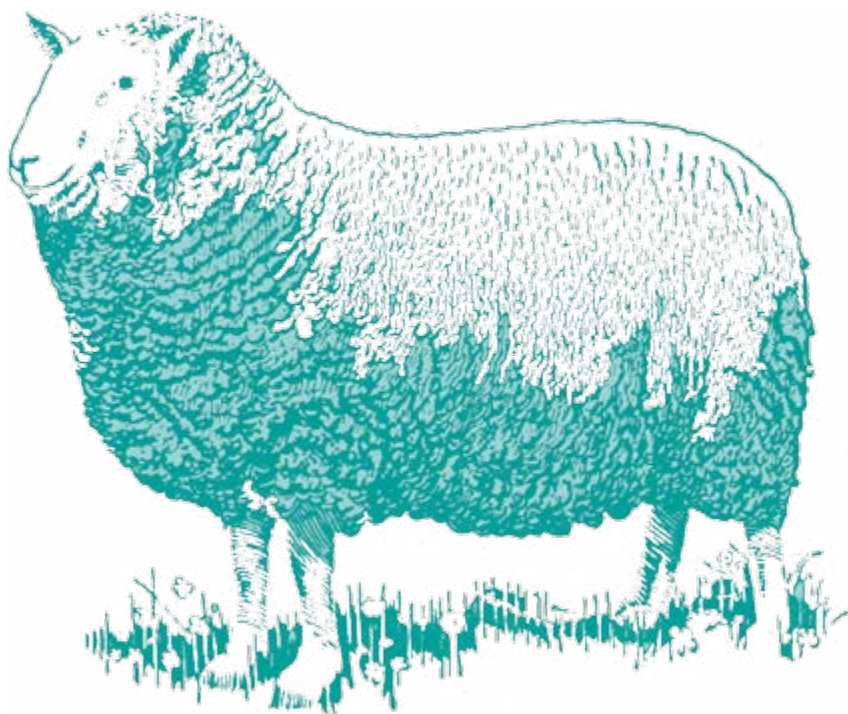
BARNYARD IN YOUR CLASSROOM

GRADES 2 – 4 · JANUARY & FEBRUARY, TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS
35 STUDENT MAXIMUM · 1 HOUR · 4 PROGRAM MAXIMUM/VISIT

Through this in-school, live-animal program, students will meet up close some of the animals that live at Kensington Farm and learn about their unique features. Find out why domesticated animals are a blend of inherited traits from their wild ancestors and what humans have wanted from them. Students will explore farm animals with a look at their anatomy: what it does for the animal, how it works, how it may change through life, how they it is inherited from their parents and how we can group animals based on their anatomy. Students will also find out what it means to be domesticated and who the wild ancestors of our familiar farm animals were. This program typically features a chicken, a rabbit and a goat.

FOCUS: heredity · life cycles · functions of structures · observable parts & physical characteristics · survival & reproduction

*Cost: \$100 for the first program, \$75 for additional programs on the same day.
Additional staff charges apply.*



FARM TOUR

YEAR-ROUND · OUTDOOR ·
1 HOUR

MAY BE ADAPTED FOR ANY GRADE LEVEL

Many elementary-aged children have never set foot on a working farm or know where their food and fiber comes from. This program introduces students to the animals living on the farm and their contributions to society. Students are encouraged to greet the different animals face-to-face while they learn about the job that specific animal does on the farm. Students will learn about the basic needs all animals have and also the differences between mammals and birds.

FARM TOUR FOR LITTLE ONES

YEAR-ROUND · OUTDOOR ·
1 HOUR · PRESCHOOL &
KINDERGARTEN

What does a sheep feel like, why does a rooster crow and how many babies can a pig have? Younger students will learn the answers to these questions and more on a tour just for them. Enjoy meeting and learning about the farm's animals through sounds, counting, and hands-on contact. A memorable experience for early learners.

KIDS' COTTAGE TOUR

YEAR-ROUND · OUTDOOR ·
1 HOUR · 2ND GRADE+

Visit this natural building which was constructed using local materials. The Kids' Cottage features a straw bale wall covered with earthen plaster, compressed earth block and wattle & daub walls, wooden timbers and an authentic thatched roof! Through active teaching and hands-on learning, our curriculum offers students awareness of natural building practices and sustainable agriculture.



MAPLE SUGARING

MARCH · OUTDOOR · 1 HOUR

MAY BE ADAPTED FOR ANY GRADE LEVEL

Students will discover how unique maple sugaring is to this region and why. This program includes tapping a maple tree, watching the process of turning sap into syrup and a tour of a Native American sugaring camp. Students will achieve a higher level of understanding and respect toward the environment and the contributions of Native American peoples.

THE SWEET LIFE OF A MAPLE TREE

MARCH · INDOOR · 1 HOUR · 1ST GRADE+

NEW COMPANION PROGRAM FOR
"MAPLE SUGARING!"

Join Nature Center Interpreters at the farm and explore tree biology. Discover why maple trees give us sweet sap in the spring. Your class will become a living maple tree and act the function of the different parts of a tree. A perfect complement to the outdoor Maple Sugaring program.

MAPLE SUGARING FOR LITTLE ONES

MARCH · OUTDOOR · 1 HOUR · PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

Younger students will discover maple sugaring in a format better suited for their learning level, while still including tapping a maple tree and the magic of turning sap into syrup.

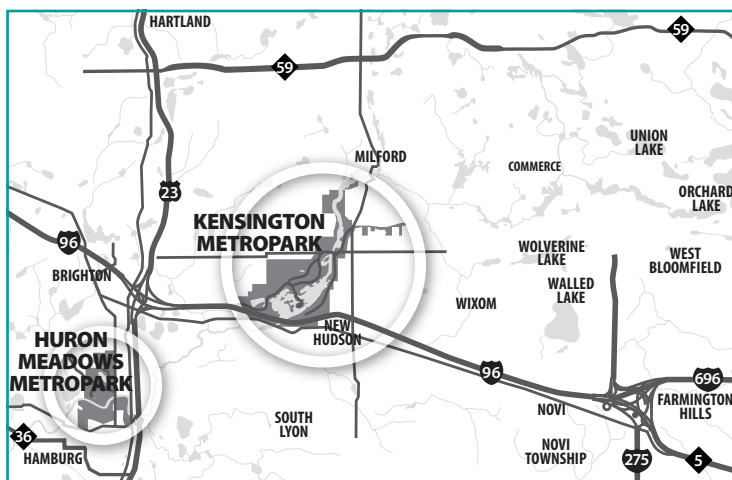
HARVEST ADVENTURE

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER · OUTDOOR · 2 HOURS · 2ND GRADE+ · \$6/STUDENT

Have fun while exploring plant life cycles and animal diversity. During this special two-hour program, students will take a walk and a wagon ride to observe fall changes on the farm, make a fall print T-shirt,* help turn apples into cider and taste the results.

**Kids must bring their own white or light-colored T-shirt.*





KENSINGTON METROPARK



Mailing Address: 2240 West Buno Road, Milford, MI 48380

Driving/GPS: 4570 Huron River Parkway, Milford, MI 48381



Park Office: 810-227-8910

Nature Center: 810-227-8917 *(to register for programs)*



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