Summer Program
Adventures at the Farm
Parent Handbook 2020

Ambler Farm
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Letter from Program Director, Kevin Meehan

Welcome to Ambler Farm! We have an extraordinary adventure ahead for your child. Our farm is amazing and the land is absolutely beautiful. However, that's not what makes an incredible experience. Our success starts by hiring extraordinary staff. Our Assistant Camp Director, Miss Jen, and I work in the Wilton Public Schools and start by finding amazing teachers to be counselors. Our junior counselors have been involved at our farm for many years. We know them well and they know our expectations. First and foremost, we look to engage campers so they feel connected. Our goal for every child is for them to leave each day saying, "I had a great time and can't wait to go back tomorrow!"

As the camp director, you will see me among the groups teaching, telling stories and having fun. Miss Jen runs our kitchen where the food tastes better because the kids make it. Miss Jen will tell you she is more fun than I am. That's not true at all. Maybe it’s true. Miss Jen is also our Medical Director and your liaison regarding any medical issues or allergies.

As you walk the farm, you will notice that our animal pens are designed for groups of children to visit with our animals. We love our animals and that shows in the housing that we have built for them as well as in their care. Your child will spend a great deal of time with our animals and learning about them.

We have over 9,000 square feet of educational gardens at Ambler Farm, and often go into Farmer Jonathan's production garden as well. There's only one thing better than picking vegetables: grilling them. We promise to grill vegetables with your children. Campers have so much fun that they don't realize that we are teaching them to love vegetables!

By the end of camp, each child will feel a connection to the land, the animals and each other. We build lifelong memories through woodworking, berry picking, cooking, learning about animals and having fun with each other. In case you have not heard, good things grow here.

See you at the farm!
Kevin Meehan
Program Director, Ambler Farm
About Ambler Farm's Summer Program

Preschool Program (Ages 4-5)
A Preschool is only as excellent as the quality of the staff. Our Preschool staff is amazing. Led by Pam Clasby, a certified teacher, the program is designed to be age appropriate, engaging and very supportive. Preschoolers go on hayrides and visit our animal stations each day. Preschoolers will spend a great deal of time with our goats, sheep, pigs, rabbits, baby chicks, turkeys and geese. We are also expecting rabbits to be born at the farm this summer!

The Preschool day is truly about movement, taking in the full wonder of the farm. Centers are designed for children to play in small groups and make friends. A child that makes a friend at camp always has a great time. Preschoolers are involved in cooking twice a week and have a weekly craft project. Depending on what's growing in the gardens, Preschoolers pick strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, sugar snap peas, garlic scapes, garlic, potatoes and more. Farmer Jonathan always welcomes our Preschoolers into his garden.

Come spend the last hour each Friday with us for Family Day and enjoy the farm through your child's eyes!

Campers must be fully potty-trained and able to use the bathroom independently in order to attend camp. Ambler Farm policy prevents staff members from assisting with bathroom needs in the event of an accident.

Grade School Program (Entering 1st - 7th Grade)
Each day is comprised of 4 stations, followed by a community lunch where all of our Grade-School campers eat together.

Cooking:
We connect garden experiences to our cooking station. Monday is always "smoothie Monday" at camp. The rest of the week's menu is determined by what's growing in the gardens. Berry crisp is a favorite as we have many strawberries, raspberries and blueberries growing at the farm. Pickling cucumbers from our garden happens in late July/early August. Bruschetta and salsa are great ways to tie in herbs and tomatoes. Some of our recipes, like monkey bread, are just old fashioned sugary fun! We can't give away all of our secrets. Cooking may be a favorite station for campers as Miss Jen and the staff often dance to music while waiting for items to come out of the oven.

Animal Visits:
We have an incredibly friendly menagerie of sheep, goats, pigs, rabbits, turkeys, baby chicks, geese and we are expecting baby rabbits to be born at the farm this summer. It takes a full week to visit all of our animals. Ask your child which animal is their favorite!

Building:
Mondays and Tuesdays are always building days with Mr. Meehan in the red barn. Kids love to build. Older campers often help our younger campers build as well. Monday's projects are
designed by the Eli Whitney Museum in Hamden, CT and Tuesdays are always set aside for free building.

Gardens:
Your child's experience will vary week to week depending on what's growing on the farm. The summer starts with strawberry picking and then raspberry and blueberry season overlap with raspberries starting first. Eating raw corn is one of our favorite things to do at the farm. For many, garlic harvesting is their favorite activity of the summer. Digging potatoes is also a favorite. Our gardens are kid friendly and children are always welcomed in them.

Grilling:
Mr. Meehan loves to grill with every group of campers. We have turned many kids onto grilled garlic scapes, corn, broccoli, zucchini, onions, potatoes, and more. All of our grilling is done in our grilling tent.

Sprinkler Station:
Depending on the heat, we add a sprinkler station to cool down. The last 2 weeks of camp are our 100 foot slip and slide weeks!

Each week brings something new and exciting. Families often sign up for multiple weeks! Hayrides happen throughout the week as well. Come spend the last hour each Friday with us for Family Day and enjoy the farm through your child's eyes. Our oldest campers will run an actual farm stand for families to purchase fruits and vegetables.

Camp Groups

Camp groups correspond to the grade your child will be entering in the Fall of 2020.

**Preschool**
4's + 5's

**Chirping Chicks**
1st / 2nd Grade

**Wascally Wabbits**
1st / 2nd Grade

**Samurai Sheep**
3rd / 4th Grade

**Ninja Goats**
5th / 6th / 7th Grade
Camp Arrival + Pick-Up Procedures

Each day, please make your way through the Hurlbut Soccer Field parking lot off Hurlbut Street. At the end of the soccer parking lot, turn left into the farm’s parking field.

**Check-in/Pick-up Preschool Campers (4’s + 5’s)**
Preschool check-in will be in front of the rabbit pen. Pick-up will be in front of the Preschool Garden.

Check-in begins at 9:15am and pick-up is at 1:15pm.

Campers must be picked up by a parent/guardian, by someone listed on their emergency contact form, or by written permission to the counselor by the parent/guardian. The authorized adult must sign out their camper(s) with their child/dren’s counselors. If you are picking up your camper early, please tell your counselor that morning. For camp security, please do not roam the property to look for your child’s group. Please contact Jennifer Grass: 203.803.9745.

**Check-in/Pick-up Grade School Campers (1st – 7th grade)**
Check-in for Grade School Campers is at the tables next to the Farm Stand. Please check-in at these tables each day.

Check-in begins at 9:00am. Daily Camper Welcome (in front of sheep/goat enclosure) at 9:15am.

Pick-up for Grade-School Campers is at the Red Barn at 1:00pm.

Campers must be checked in and checked out of camp each day by an adult parent/caregiver who is present. If a child rides their bicycle to camp, they must still be signed in and out by an adult parent/caregiver each day.

Campers must be picked up by a parent/guardian, by someone listed on their emergency contact form, or by written permission to the counselor by the parent/guardian. The authorized adult must sign out their camper(s) with their child/dren’s counselors. If you are picking up your camper early, please tell your counselor that morning. For camp security, please do not roam the property to look for your child’s group. Please contact Jennifer Grass: 203.803.9745.
What to Bring to Camp (and What to Leave Home)

**Water:** Pack a full, reusable water bottle.

**Snack + Lunch:** Send your child with a small, nut-free and non-perishable snack and lunch in separate reusable bags. Snacks must be kept separate from camper’s lunch.

**Clothing:** Campers should wear layers and weather appropriate clothing that can get dirty and/or damp. We will email you when we plan to use the sprinkler, so that your child can pack (or wear) a swimsuit and towel.

**Footwear:** Sturdy shoes for walking and running. No sandals or open toed shoes.

**Rain Gear:** Campers are outside, even in inclement weather. Dress campers in layers, dress warm and pack rain coats/boots if rain is forecasted.

**Backpack:** To easily hold all of a camper’s belongings.

**Sunblock and Insect Repellant:** Sunblock and insect repellant (if desired) should be applied prior to camp. Staff can not apply sunblock or insect repellant to campers. As with any outdoor activity, please check your child each night for ticks.

**Ride-Sharing Note:** Ambler Farm may not release a child without written permission. If your child is being picked up by anyone other than a parent/guardian or emergency contact, send them with written permission including the following: date of pick up, name of person picking up and their contact information.

**Camper Use of Electronic Devices:** Ambler Farm is a wonderful place to connect with the land and each other. Please leave electronic devices (cell phones, iPads, etc.) and toys at home, as well as any items with significant financial or emotional value as we are not responsible for any lost, stolen or broken items.
Camp Safety

Healthy Child / Communicable Illnesses
Campers must be healthy, injury-free and well enough to participate fully in activities. Please keep sick campers home to avoid germs and illnesses being spread to other campers and staff. If a camper shows signs of illness, parents/guardian will be contacted to pick them up. Campers must be symptom-free (i.e. fever, vomiting, diarrhea) for 24 hours before they return to camp.

First Aid
Our Medical Director adheres to state requirements for the administration of medication. The First Aid Office is located in the White Barn. In the event of an emergency we will notify parents/guardians after appropriate medical steps have been taken, which may include calling 911. Unless otherwise notified, any camper that requires further medical attention will be transported to Norwalk Hospital. The Medical Director will notify parents of mild injuries at his/her professional discretion and all serious injuries that occur at camp. According to CT Department of Public Health, campers appearing to have a contagious disease must be quarantined and sent home.

Emergencies
We have specific procedures for lost campers, severe weather, and medical emergencies.

Medical + Emergency Contact Forms
Medical and Emergency Contact Forms are available on the Ambler Farm website: www.amblerfarm.org/programs/summer-camp/forms/. They include:

1. Emergency Information Form
2. State of CT Health Form
3. Medication at Camp Information Sheet
4. Authorization for Administration of Medication Form
5. IPC (Individual Plan of Care): This form is required for any camper that has a special health need or disability and it is necessary that special care be taken or provided while the child is at camp. This may include but is not limited to food allergies/sensitivities which require prescribed or over-the-counter medications, hearing aids, ADD/ADHD, physical challenges, epilepsy, services or paraprofessional support received during the school year, etc. The IPC form allows us to have important information to ensure each child has a happy, healthy and successful time at camp.

A physician must complete certain portions of the medical forms. Campers must have had a physical within the past 36 months or 3 years. A copy of a previous form, including a school medical form, can be submitted as long as it meets the 36 months requirement. Parents are required to update the camp office with any changes in health status or medications between the time the forms are submitted and the end of camp.

We require a NEW set of forms to be submitted every year, even if your child has attended camp in the past.
Medical and Emergency Contact Forms are due by **NOON THE THURSDAY BEFORE YOUR CHILD’S FIRST DAY** of camp. The Camp Medical Director will need this time to review all forms to make sure all questions are answered. **No child will be admitted into camp without completed medical forms. Our Medical Forms Coordinator and our Medical Director are only available to discuss and review a camper’s medical forms during the week (Monday – Friday). Any medical forms received over the weekend will not be reviewed until the conclusion of camp each Monday.**

If your child is attending multiple weeks of camp, only one set of medical forms needs to be submitted.

3 Ways to Get Forms to Ambler Farm:

1. Email forms as **PDFs only** to **campforms@amblerfarm.org**

2. Mail forms to:
   **Ambler Farm**
   PO Box 7442
   Wilton, CT 06897
   ATTN: Health Forms

3. Drop off forms in our Drop Box at the farm in front of the white Carriage Barn. Please do not come to the farm to drop off forms during camp hours, 8:30am – 1:30pm, as the main driveway will be closed and our staff will be busy overseeing campers.

**Medication Policy + Forms**

All medications, including inhalers, must be given to the Medical Director for approval on the camper’s first day of camp. Medications cannot remain with a child at camp; they will be kept in the First Aid Office in a locked box. If your camper needs to take medication, either over the counter or prescription, during the camp day, our camp Medical Director can dispense medication if the following requirements are met:

1. The medication is in its original, sealed bottle/box with the camper’s name printed on the prescription label.
2. Your child's physician has filled out and signed the Authorization for the Administration of Medications Form for each medication received and they are on file in the First Aid Office. Forms are available on the website.
3. The medication has not expired.
4. All medications must be picked up each week, by the parent on the last day that a child attends camp. Medications will not be held over in the First Aid Office if the child is attending multiple camp weeks.

*All medications received must be in a clear, gallon-sized Ziploc bag with the child’s name and DOB written on the outside in sharpie marker. Medications must be in their original package with the prescription label affixed. CHECK EXPIRATION DATES. Include a separate copy of all emergency forms AND a current photo of the child inside the bag.*
**Ticks + Lice Prevention**
If lice is suspected in your child’s camp group, your child may be checked for lice. If the camp has any concerns over the appearance of lice or nits in your child’s hair, you will be contacted to pick up your child that day. We ask all campers be free of nits before returning to camp to ensure containment of exposure. Before your child may be permitted to return to camp, they will be checked by a camp Medical Director or Senior Camp staff member.

As with any outdoor activity, please check your child for ticks daily. Call your doctor if your child develops a fever or rash.

**Allergy Protocol**
Campers with peanut/tree nut allergies range in severity. For this reason we are, “Peanut/Tree Nut Aware,” and ask that camp families refrain from bringing peanut/tree nut products as well as products:

- made in a facility that processes peanut/tree nuts;
- manufactured on shared equipment with peanuts/tree nuts;
- that may contain **trace amounts** of peanuts/tree nuts.

Ambler Farm’s Protocol for a “Peanut/Tree Nut Aware” Camp:
1. All lunches will be inspected by your child’s Counselor.
2. Any foods that contain peanut/tree nut products or are processed in a plant or on shared machinery with peanut products will be sent home. Please **inspect your child’s snack and lunch ingredients for possible traces of peanuts/tree nuts.**
3. If your child’s lunch or snack contains nut processed products, they will be left unopened and sent home.
4. Campers and staff are not permitted to share food.

**Registration + Policies**

Registration must be completed online at [www.amblerfarm.org](http://www.amblerfarm.org) with a credit card. Contact Executive Director, Robin Clune (robin@amblerfarm.org) if you have questions or are experiencing difficulties.

You can register for multiple weeks and children. Start by going to [www.amblerfarm.org](http://www.amblerfarm.org) and register one child for one week at a time. Previous selections will be saved in your shopping cart until you check out. Registration closes at Noon on the Wednesday prior to each camp week, space permitting.

Camp grades correspond to the grade your child will be entering in the Fall of 2020.

Programs run Monday – Friday. Registration is for the entire week.
**Sessions + Fees**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Fee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 15th – June 19th (Preschool only)</td>
<td>$340/week per child</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 22nd – June 26th</td>
<td>$340/week per child</td>
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<td>June 29th – July 3rd</td>
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<td>July 6th – July 10th</td>
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<td>July 13th – July 17th</td>
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<td>July 20th – July 24th</td>
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<td>July 27th – July 31st</td>
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<td>August 3rd – August 7th</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 10th – August 14th</td>
<td>$340/week per child</td>
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**Discounts**

As a non-profit organization, Ambler Farm does not offer sibling or multi-week discounts and we do not pro-rate weeks.

**Cancellation/Refund Policy**

Prior to June 10th all cancellations are 100% refundable. **After June 10th, there will be no refunds.** Weeks may be exchanged, for the current summer, if space is available in an alternate week.

**Medical Forms**

Completed Medical Forms must be received by Ambler Farm no later than noon the Thursday prior to your child’s first day of camp. According to Connecticut State law, campers may not attend camp without all necessary completed Medical Forms.

If your child is attending multiple weeks of camp, only one set of medical forms needs to be submitted.

3 Ways to Get Forms to Ambler Farm:

1. Email forms as **PDFs only** to campforms@ambl erfarm.org

2. Mail forms to:
   - Ambler Farm
   - PO Box 7442
   - Wilton, CT 06897
   - ATTN: Health Forms

3. Drop off forms in our Drop Box at the farm in front of the white Carriage Barn. Please do not come to the farm to drop off forms during camp hours, 8:30am – 1:30pm, as the main driveway will be closed and our staff will be busy overseeing campers.

**Financial Assistance**

To be considered for financial assistance, please contact Jennifer Grass 203.803.9745 or jennifer@ambl erfarm.org.
**Walk-in Policy**
Walk-ins are permitted if space is available AND all paperwork has been received and reviewed by camp staff. Please see Medical Forms requirements.

**Wait List**
If you would like to be in a session that is currently full, please fill out the wait list registration form online. Occasionally, families need to cancel their registration and space becomes available. If space does become available, you will be notified by phone or email. You will have 24 hours to respond. If we do not hear from you in that time, we will assume you are not interested in registering for that week and we will move on to the next camper on the list. Please contact Jennifer Grass 203.803.9745 should you have any questions.

**Potty-Training**
Campers must be fully potty-trained and able to use the bathroom independently in order to attend camp. Ambler Farm policy prevents staff members from assisting with bathroom needs in the event of an accident.

**Campers with Special Needs**
If your child receives paraprofessional support during the school year, we suggest you provide additional support at camp (credentials and background check required). Families and their campers must connect with the camp directors at least 2 weeks prior to the session start date to discuss fit and needs.
If your child requires assistance with toileting, please review the Ambler Farm Summer Program policy on Potty-Training.

**Behavior at Camp**
Ambler Farm has a zero tolerance policy for physical aggression including but not limited to hitting and biting. Parents will be notified immediately and a conversation will be held to determine if the child can continue to participate in camp.
FAQs

Answers to some commonly asked questions can be found below. If you have further questions, feel free to contact us at info@amblerfarm.org.

Q: I have one child registered for the Preschool Summer Program beginning at 9:15am and another for the Grade School Summer Program at 9:00am. Can I drop them off at the same time?
A: You may drop off your Grade School camper at 9am, and then visit with our animals while you wait for the Preschool Program check-in to open. Please do not leave your preschooler without checking them in with the preschool staff.

Q: My child's physician cannot complete the Medical Forms in time to meet the camp forms deadline. Can my child still attend camp?
A: According to Connecticut State law, campers may not attend camp without all necessary completed medical and health forms. Please contact Assistant Camp Director, Jennifer Grass at jennifer@amblerfarm.org or 203.803.9745, if you have questions or concerns.

Q: Will camp still run if it's raining, cold or other inclement weather?
A: Yes! We are an outdoor camp. Please dress your child warmly in layers, with appropriate rain gear (boots, rain coat, hat, etc.). Layers can always be removed if the weather improves. We are a farm and it gets muddy pretty quickly in the rain!

Q: If my child is sick or can only come a few days, can you prorate my fee?
A: As a non-profit organization, Ambler Farm does not pro-rate weeks. Prior to June 10th all cancellations are 100% refundable. After June 10th, there will be no refunds. Weeks may be exchanged, for the current summer, if space is available in an alternate week.

Q: I’m registering my child with a friend. Can they be in the same group?
A: We have one group of Preschoolers (ages 4 and 5). We group 1st/2nd grades together, 3rd/4th and 5th/6th/7th together. While friends with different ages/grades may not be in the same group, school age kids all eat lunch together and there are about 15 mins. of downtime at the beginning of each day for kids to hang out at the animals. They will have many common experiences for different age groups, but their experiences may be separate due to the groupings.

Q: How do I register multiple children for camp for multiple weeks?
A: You can register for multiple weeks and children. Start by going to www.amblerfarm.org and register each child one week at a time. Previous selections will be saved in your shopping cart until you check out.