

Spring and Fall Educational and Corn Maze Tours Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do we make a reservation?

Go to www.billsberryfarm.com and the Tours tab. Hit the "sign up" button and fill in the reservation form with approximate number of attendees and your preferred date and time on our calendar. We will respond via email and set up your reservation.

2. When are educational tours offered?

All tours are scheduled on Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays

Signs of Spring Tours: Offered in May and June.

Corn maze Tours: The month of October.

Fall Pumpkin Tours: The month of October.

3. What time are educational tours offered?

Tours are scheduled at 9:30am, 11:00am, and 12:30 pm. Up to groups may be scheduled simultaneously, with each group starting a different station, and then rotating through all stations, allowing you to have a private tour. If your school has more than 4 classes we can usually combine classes to make this rotation work with up to 150 students so you can all attend at the same time.

4. How much does the tour cost?

Tour Participants/students: \$7 each for Educational Tour and \$5 each for Corn Maze Tour

1 Teacher and 2 Aides for each class: FREE

Additional Chaperones or Parents: \$2 each

Siblings that are old enough to participate in the activity (plant a seed in spring/pick out a pumpkin in the fall) and eat the snack will be charged \$7 each.

Each of our tours has a minimum fee of \$90.

(NOTE: As of fall 2018 we have a new general Farm Admission Fee on Fridays and Saturdays that customers must pay at the gate to participate in all our regular farm activities/corn maze, etc. So that means, on Friday Tours only, the above tour fees are good for the duration of the tour only. If participants wish to stay after the tour is finished, there will be an 'upgrade fee' for each parent of \$7 to bring them up to the \$9 admission fee price. Students will not have to pay an additional fee. If the Friday tour participants do NOT wish to stay after the tour, there will be no additional charges.)

5. How do we pay?

PAYMENT MUST BE MADE AT TIME OF TOUR.*

We accept school or personal check, cash or credit card. Please make checks payable to Bill's Berry Farm.

***If you need to be invoiced in advance in order to request a school check, please contact Julie immediately so that your school has time to process payment and get you a check in time for you to bring with you to the tour.**

At this time Bill's Berry Farm does NOT accept Purchase Orders.

We have found the payment process works much smoother if you follow these steps:

- Get a total count of staff, students, chaperones, parents and siblings prior to the trip.
- Email the final count of each (students, staff, chaperones, parents and paying siblings) to Julie at info@billsberryfarm.com at least 3 days prior to your tour so we can schedule enough staff.
- Collect all fees for students (\$7/5) and extra parents (\$2) with a total count of heads for each amount and bring into the Farm Store with your payment when you arrive.
- Have the person responsible for payment come to the Farm Store and tell the staff how many students and how many parents you are paying for when they give them the payment. Be sure to get a cash register receipt at that time for your records. We cannot generate them later.
- We understand that your school may have booked more than 1 trip, however, we ask that the check, cash or credit card payment only cover trips scheduled on that day. Please do not pay for trips scheduled ahead.

6. What is included in the educational tour?

Educational Tours are filled with "Hands on Fun" and include an educational but fun lesson in our outdoor classroom, a tour of the farm on Farmer Bill's hay wagon, a frolicking visit with our "Barnyard Buddies" and a refreshment of fresh made donut and juice. **Signs of Spring educational tours** will learn about seasons, blooms or

bees and pollination, as well as have a hands on experience planting a seed to take home. **Fall Pumpkin Patch educational tours** will get an agricultural lesson pertaining to fall harvest and pumpkins

Corn Maze Tours are filled with so much fun and laughter that children don't realize they are gaining knowledge and skills along the way. Tours include a self-guided tour of the maze and all Farmland activities. Children use problem solving and team building skills to not only get through our maze, but to play one or two games built into the maze. (Note: each team must be accompanied by an adult at all times.) Does NOT include juice and snacks.

7. What do we do when we arrive?

All Spring & Pumpkin Tour groups should park in the main festival parking lot (all the way at the end of the road in the lot near the red Farm Store). When you arrive please have your payment ready so we can quickly check your leader in at the Farm Store, give you any further instructions, and get you started on your tour! Our staff will meet your group in the parking lot, give you written and verbal instructions and get you to your stations.

Corn Maze Tour groups should park in the overflow/corn maze parking lot (the first one you will come to). When you arrive please have one person come to the Corn Maze Entrance to let us know you have arrived, make your payment and receive further instructions.

8. How many people can attend the tour in each class/group?

No more than 50 guests (including teachers, aides, students and additional chaperones, parents and siblings) for each Educational Tour group. We can do up to 4 groups at one time. Your group may be as small as you want, but there will be a minimum \$90 fee charged per group unless we can combine you with another group to meet the minimum.

9. How long can we stay?

Each Educational tour lasts approx 1 hour 20 minutes from scheduled start time to finish. There are no scheduled restroom breaks. Please arrive 15-20 minutes early to allow time for unloading, restroom use and for the designated person to pay fees and receive instructions. If you are late to the first station your tour may be cut short so that we can keep all groups rotating on schedule.

Prior to your visit you need to let us know if you are staying for lunch or plan to use our playgrounds outside of your tour time. You are welcome to stay for a time; however, we ask that if you choose to stay longer than your tour, you keep your group together, you remain within our Berry Park, and that you don't interfere with other tours.

10. What about food and beverage?

Educational tours include a donut and a juice. Teachers, Aides and Parents also get the snack. Tour groups are welcome to bring their own sack lunch, a picnic area is available. Please make sure your area is left as you found it. Trash cans are located in the picnic area.

11. Is there somewhere to keep our food and beverages cold?

There is no cooler/freezer space available.

12. Who is responsible for cleaning up the picnic area?

We ask that your lunch site be left in the same condition as you found it. Trash cans are provided near the picnic tables.

13. What about other activities?

Our Berry Park is home to two playgrounds for your use. It also boasts a large grassy area perfect for games of your choice. Please do not leave the picnic/playground area without a farm guide. This is a working farm and as such it has inherent dangers that could potentially cause harm.

14. Is there a wagon ride? All tours except the fall Corn Maze Tour include a hay wagon tour of the farm and a stop in the field.

15. Where are the restrooms located?

Our portable toilets and hand washing stations are located near the edge of the parking lot.

16. What about sanitation?

One station on our educational tours is a visit at our "Barnyard Buddies" animal farm. We ask that as groups leave this stop they go directly to our hand wash station and wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water before heading to their next stop, which is snack time. There are also hand wash stations next to the port-a-potties

17. Will there be other tours during our tour?

Possibly, we can run four classes/groups at one time, with each beginning at a different station and rotating until each group has visited each station. Also, if you have a very small group (less than 14) we may pair another small

group of the same grade with yours. Our Berry Park, with its picnic area and two playgrounds, is large enough to accommodate more than one group.

18. What about children with food or environment allergies?

A student with allergies is under the sole care of the teacher/parent/school. We bear no responsibility in regard to student allergies, nor do we provide an alternative snack.

19. What clothing is appropriate for the farm?

Children should wear comfortable, temperature appropriate clothing with practical shoes for walking on uneven field surfaces. Spring and Fall tours can be quite cool.

20. Are pets allowed at the farm?

No pets are allowed, for the health and safety of all our guests; except **trained** service dogs.

21. What if it rains?

To this date we have never had to cancel due to weather conditions, but in case we need to cancel, we will contact you in the morning of the tour to let you know if your tour is canceled. We have a covered lesson area and large trees in our park/playground areas to give shelter on rainy days. Our hayride and animal farm areas are not covered.

22. What if we have to cancel our tour?

Before you book your tour please check your schedule and make sure that day is available. We understand sometimes things don't work out as planned, however; cancellations take time and cost money. At this time we do not charge for cancellations but will consider charging if multiple cancellations occur.

If we happened to miss your question, please call us at 509-882-3200