



**food+farm**  
EXPLORATION CENTER

# 2023-2024 Field Guide



## INTRODUCTION

### WELCOME TO THE FOOD + FARM EXPLORATION CENTER!

Our mission is to educate current and future generations about agricultural innovation and sustainability through experiential learning. We strive to create a community rich in agricultural literacy and innovation through programming that will excite, engage and promote agriculture.

We educate people about the importance of farming and its connection to the food we eat.

- Recognize that there is a deep connection between food and farming
- Everyone is connected to agriculture
- Agriculturalists are innovative professionals
- Agriculture is a highly technical industry that requires skilled workers in a variety of areas
- Agriculturalists work together to conserve natural resources through sustainable practices
- Learners can grow and connect with agriculture through immersive educational experiences



# FOOD + FARM EXPLORATION CENTER

## HOURS OF OPERATION:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 9 am – 5 pm

Thursday: 9 am – 7 pm

Saturday and Sunday: 10 am – 4 pm

## FIELD TRIP PRICING:

- **General admission:**  
\$5 per person with a minimum of 10 people
- Dig In experiences will incur an additional cost

## CENTER HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Ag STEM Gallery:** Get up close with a life-size pivot irrigator, physically stamp out blight, or experience farming from a real-life tractor cab simulation. The Ag STEM Gallery is a place to explore the intersection of farming and food, the people who make it happen and the processes that take it from field to fork.
- **Seedlings Children's Gallery:** Come play with agriculture! Activate your imagination, senses and creativity in a space designed like a children's museum. Dig up a carrot, drive a tractor, grocery shop or prep a meal. Learn about agriculture in a way that is most familiar to our littlest learners – through play!
- **Kitchen Lab:** Combine agricultural science with culinary arts in a creative collision! Build cooking confidence in a space that mimics a home kitchen. Programmatic offerings will range from novice to expert, youth to adult. Explore food in a way that's creative, social and useful! Add one of our Dig In Experiences to enhance student.



## CENTER HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED):

- **Ag Lab Maker Space:** Experience a space uniquely designed to cultivate creativity and innovation with an agricultural focus. This classroom environment will engage visitors with both their hands and high-tech tools to promote problem-solving skills and critical thinking. Draw with a robot, build a hydraulic arm or construct a pollinator house. Add one of our Dig In Experiences to enhance student engagement.
- **Farm Tech Shed:** Meet the machines that feed the nation. Get face-to-face with awe-inspiring equipment showcasing the latest in technology and innovation. Sit in the driver's seat, explore the inner workings of the equipment and even experience a bird's-eye view of the machinery that keeps the industry moving.
- **Farm Demonstration Fields:** Comprised of four one-acre field plots, the Demonstration Fields are a learning space extension spanning beyond the actual walls of the Food+Farm Exploration Center. Each field has its own crop rotation and a center pivot irrigator. Witness agriculture in action right where it occurs – in the field.



## FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

### Self-Guided Field Trips

Groups can explore the Center at their own pace with a self-guided field trip experience. Discounted admission rates apply for schools, childcare centers, and nonprofit groups of 10 or more.

We request that all field trips have an adult to student ratio of 1:5. One free adult admission is included with every 5 paid student admissions.

### Dig In Experience

Dig In Experiences include facilitated workshops that encourage learning through materials and tools, props, demonstrations and group interaction. Dig In Experiences are 60-minute in length. Participants can select from a variety of options to meet their learning objectives.

Please indicate that you would like to reserve a Dig In Experience when completing your reservation request. Dig In Experiences can be a stand-alone opportunity or held in conjunction with the self-guided center experience. Select from the following topic areas for your trip experience: (include pricing)

### Primary Grades:

- **Bristle Bots** – Do you think you could build a robot on the head of a toothbrush? Bristle Bots are simple, tiny robots that buzz around like bugs. They are easy to build and fun to play with. Learn the basics of electricity in this make and take project! **Cost:**
- **Mining for Minerals** – Mining has a long-standing history in Wisconsin. Early miners came to the state to mine for lead and iron leading to our nickname “the Badger State”. Dig in to Wisconsin soils with this engaging cookie mining activity!



### Intermediate Grades:

- **Scribble Bots** – Students explore how circuits and electricity work together while designing and creating their own “scribble bot” to take home.
- **Mining for Minerals** – Mining has a long-standing history in Wisconsin. Early miners came to the state to mine for lead and iron leading to our nickname “the Badger State”. Learn about the process and economic impact in this immersive experience through cookie mining!

### Middle School:

- **Jumping Robots** – Learn how to build a simple robot that uses the energy stored in a stretched rubber band to jump. You will use the engineering design process to try to make your robot jump higher and farther. How far can you make it jump? (Actual cost: roughly \$4/student)

### High School:

- **Dirt is a Dirty Word** – Investigate soils and the different properties that make it suitable for growth. Analyze moisture, temperature, pH, compaction and permeability.



## BEFORE FIELD TRIP LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Use our specially designed programs to introduce your students to agriculture prior to your visit to the Food + Farm Exploration Center.

### Primary and Intermediate opportunities:

- Careers in Agriculture lesson plan
- How Am I Connected to Agriculture? lesson plan
- Classroom Visit from FFEC (see Outreach section for more details)
  - Plants We Eat
  - A Wisconsin Picnic Basket
  - Crayon Rock Cycle

### Middle and High School Lessons:

- How Connected am I to Agriculture?
- Classroom visit from FFEC (see Outreach section for more details)
  - Colorful Chemistry
  - Strawberry DNA Extraction
  - How Sweet Is It?

## AFTER FIELD TRIP LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

We have a number of lesson plans and activities that you can use to further your students' understanding and love for agriculture. To download or request materials, check out our website at [explorefoodandfarm.org](http://explorefoodandfarm.org).

- Standards-based lesson plans
- STEM Kits
- Literacy Kits
- Breakout Boxes
- Activities
- Recommended Readings



## OUTREACH TO YOUR SCHOOL!

Let us bring agriculture into your classroom with our classroom visit program. An F+FEC staff member will visit your classroom to engage your students in an interactive learning experience.

- **A Wisconsin Picnic Basket:** Learn about Wisconsin agricultural commodities and the products they are turned into through this engaging presentation. (All grades)
- **Insects are Everywhere:** Students will learn about both the challenges insects present and how they benefit humans as well as learning about insect anatomy. (Grades K-6)
- **Plants We Eat:** Students will learn about the parts of a plant and their functions as they play a game to learn more about the plant parts we eat. (Grades 3-6)
- **Crayon Rock Cycle:** In this hands-on lab, students learn about the three types of rocks and how they are created using crayons to simulate the rock cycle. (Grades 4-8)
- **Colorful Chemistry:** In this laboratory investigation, students will learn about pH by using household chemicals to create a pH rainbow. (Grades 8-10)
- **Strawberry DNA Extraction:** In this laboratory investigation, students will learn about DNA as they extract it from strawberries. (Grades 6-12)
- **How Sweet Is It?** In this laboratory investigation students will learn about the science of refractometry as they test the sugar content in different juices. (Grades 8-12)

For more information on field trips or education outreach opportunities please contact the Food + Farm Exploration Center at 715-303-3276 or [education@fftf.us](mailto:education@fftf.us).

