**Education Pack for Visiting**

**Bless this Mess Homestead**

**About Us**

Tour season at Bless this Mess will be here before you know it! Visiting the homestead, you will learn about gardening, livestock and being self-sufficient, offer fun and interactive activities and experience what it takes to live on a working homestead! Great for all ages. We love sharing our passion with others. My husband, 3 young school aged children and I run our small homestead year-round. We offer hand washing stations, restroom, a covered porch for picnicking, a petting area for our Nigerian Dwarf dairy goats and gardens to work in. Agriculture is very important to learn. Learning where our food comes from and how it gets to the dinner table is a must!

**Where: Location, Parking and Meet:**

We are located in Rural Ohio City, Ohio at 13801 State Route 709 just a mile east of 127. We have adequate parking for buses and personal vehicles with an easy turn around drive. You will be greeted at your bus or vehicle and given instructions from there.

**Here is a list of what we have to offer when you visit:**

* learning "what is a homestead" and how it’s different and yet the same as a farm
* see and walk our grounds
* meet and pet our livestock
* learn about our livestock (species, purpose, names of male and female)
* see our gardens and small orchard
* learn about what we grow
* Learn how to hand-milk a dairy goat with hands on experience (this is limited to a few with 2hr tour)
* Bottle Feed a baby goat (April-June)
* Spring Fever Babies (April & May)
* Start a Seed to take home (April-June)
* Harvest some fruits or veggies (June-October)
* Make homemade apple sauce (September-October)
* You can request to make homemade butter for an extra $1 charge per person
* Games and Activities to reinforce what we have discussed
* All discussions are geared towards to age/level of the participants

**Estimated Time:**

Time can be tailored to your visit. We offer our Hands-on Interactive Educational Tour that is estimated at 2.5 hours and our All-Day Visit 9:00AM-2:00PM (All day Visit times can be altered to fit your school/group).

**All Day Visit Includes:**

* The above list
* More in depth learning on plants and livestock
* Hands on Learning Activities
* Learning about Compost
* Scavenger Hunt
* Small Group Stations
* Preform some chores (feeding animals, pulling weeds, grooming animals or age appropriate task)

Each child will need to bring a packed lunch for All Day Visit as well

We can accommodate up to 25 students per visit.

We can tailor the visit to meet your classroom needs as well! Let us know what your goal to learn is!

**All Tours are Guided, we do not offer self-guided tours**

**Special Needs and Allergies**

We strive to make our learning experience available to everyone, but we are limited. There may be areas of our grounds that are difficult for those in wheelchairs or require walking assistance. We do not have permanent restroom facilities for the handicap (Port-a-Potty). If you have someone in your group with physical disabilities, please tell us and we will try to accommodate the best we can.

There are all kinds allergens on the homestead. Visiting Bless this Mess is not recommended to individuals with severe allergies to poultry, hay, straw or animal dander. If your group would like us to provide a snack, please let us know of any food allergies.

**Price and Cancelation Policy**

Cost is $5 per person for our Hands-on Interactive Education Tour 2.5hr or $7 for the All-Day Visit. We do offer a discounted rate for groups with 12 or more participants with cost being $3 a person for our Hands-on Interactive Education Tour 2.5hr or $5 for the All-Day Visit. You can also add making homemade butter to your visit for $1 per person. There is no cost for teachers or chaperones.

Payment can be paid the day of the visit by either cash or business check or we can invoice your school/group before your scheduled visit.

If bad weather is predicted (severe thunderstorms) with a percentage of 70% or more in the hours the visit is scheduled for by 2pm the day before, I will contact the teacher in charge as we may need to reschedule. While we have areas to be out of the weather its no fun to be stuck inside the whole time. There’s no charge if we decide that the visit needs to be rescheduled/canceled due to weather or there’s an issue on our end.

To cancel for any other reason please give 2-weeks’ notice so the date may be given to another. There will be a charge of $50 if 2-week notice was not given.

**What to Bring:**

Bottle of water per child with his or her name on it

Packed lunch if picnicking

Name Tags for each student and chaperone

**What to wear:**

Clothing appropriate for the weather (layers is recommended)

Clothing that can get dirty

CLOSED TOED SHOES that will get dirty- no open toed shoes are allowed

**Please Remember:**

This is a working homestead so there will be smells, sights and animal waste

Our animals and grounds will be treated with respect

This is also our home

Each participant, teacher and chaperone must fill out our waiver form in order to visit the homestead.

**How to Schedule a Visit:**

To schedule a visit to Bless this Mess Homestead please contact Danielle by either phone or email. Please have your calendar available and any questions you may have ready.

Our Tour Season starts April 22nd and runs through October 11th, 2019. If your wanting to schedule our Hands-on Interactive Education Tour 2.5hr these are scheduled to begin at 11:30AM. An All-Day Visit is scheduled to begin at 9:00AM and needs to be scheduled 30 days in advance.

We ask that you arrive 10 minutes earlier that your scheduled time, so we can start on time.

**Contact Information**

Bless this Mess Homestead

Coordinator: Danielle Kundert

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