



Belvedere PLANTATION

Field Trip Planning Guide

Maize Maze Adventure

We are so excited that you are coming to visit our farm, and we want to make sure you and your students have the best field trip possible! Therefore, please be familiar with this planning guide, and pass it on to all teachers and chaperones, so everyone knows what to expect when you arrive. We want this day to run smoothly for you!

What is included in our field trip?

Your class will be participating in the Maize Maze Adventure field trip, which is designed to teach children about the many uses of corn agronomy, uses of corn in our diet and the history of mazes. The following activities are included in your field trip:

Pick your own pumpkin in the Great Pumpkin Patch

Take a hayride around the farm

Solve the Maize Maze in small groups – three different levels and various interactive learning tools are available

Ye Olde Barnyard: Fun farm animal facts

Have fun on the farm:

- Fun Barn Swings or Pumpkin Mountain Slide (our tour guides will select one for you when the time comes – based on availability and group ages)
- Picnic tables & concessions

Please note that many attractions available for general public during our weekend Fall Harvest Festival are not open during Field Trips, as our focus during the week is on your educational program.

Closed during field trips include Zip Line, Pedal Tractors, Pig Races, Antique Corn Grinder, Scarecrow Workshop, Corn Maze (except for the Great Adventure Maize Maze field trips), Joust, Moon Bounce, Pumpkin Sling Shots, and Duck Races.

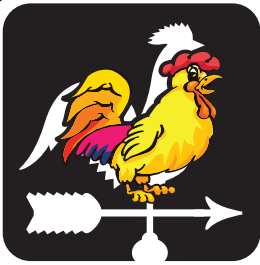
Where do we go when we arrive?

Whether you arrive by bus or by car, look for our Farmers (Tour Guides) usually dressed in overalls and red shirts will show you where to park. Busses are typically parked separately from cars.

Once the vehicles are safely parked, your group will be guided to a gathering area for orientation. Bring your lunches/snacks with you from the parking lot. Please have one member of your group check-in at our admissions booth while your group is unloading.

At orientation, you will receive a brief welcome; an overview of the field trip and each class will be assigned a unique colored flag. Please note that the groups are assigned based on classroom – not school. Therefore, one school may have multiple flags, and the groups will be split up to go through the various stations. It is not possible logistically for large groups consisting of multiple classes to be together for the field trip. Please be sure to keep your designated flag during your entire visit, as the flag is the only means for us to manage your field trip. In addition, it is strongly recommended that the leader responsible for checking in the school disburse the pumpkin bags to each classroom immediately, as the entire group may not be going to the patch at the same time.

Once the group is checked in, our Tour Guides will direct your group to the next station.



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What about lunches?

Two options:

1) Wheelbarrows are available at check in for the children's lunches. Labeled bands will be given to each group to put on the wheelbarrow handles to help groups find their lunches. Please select an adult from your group to take the wheelbarrow with the lunches down the hill toward the Fun Barn. They can park the wheelbarrow at our "lunch parking area" and rejoin the group.

Please Note: If you choose to park your wheelbarrow at a specific picnic table, this DOES NOT reserve that picnic table for your use. Since different groups will be eating lunch at different times, the picnic tables may not be reserved, and are available on a first-come first-serve basis only.

2) Many groups have found it much easier and much quicker if students come with backpacks to carry their lunches in and to keep jackets and gloves if it warms up and they take them off during the visit. Backpacks allow you to skip the hassle of collecting, moving and finding everyone's lunches when the time comes.

How do we know which stations to go to?

When your group arrives, you will be directed to the Maize Maze Adventure where you will meet your Tour Guide(s). The tour guide will give a brief talk on various educational subjects pertaining to corn, including its history, growth, uses, importance, and impact on our daily lives. The group will then be given instructions on how to complete the maze, and various interactive tools will be provided. Once the entire group has completed all sections of the maze, the Tour Guide will direct you to the next station, based on availability.

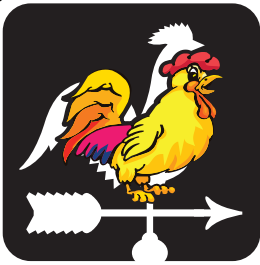
During this time, it is very important to stay with your flag. If your school has 4 different flags, each flag will be sent to a different station. This keeps groups sizes small, and ensures that all children are given the same opportunities.

When do we pick our pumpkin?

Visiting the Great Pumpkin Patch is one of the most anticipated stations. Your group will be sent to the field based on station and wagon availability. Please note that because most groups have a limited time at the farm due to bus schedules, it is important to encourage your group to not take long in the pumpkin patch. The pumpkin patch is many acres large and if your group scatters to far corners you could easily take too long and not have enough time to visit all the stations.

Wagon loaders will direct you to a specific wagon. You will not be returning on the same wagon, so don't leave items on the hayride. It is generally easiest to not take strollers on the hayride as strollers do not work well in the pumpkin patch.

A pumpkin bag for each paying participant (including free teacher(s)) was given to the person who paid for your group. Every paying participant gets to pick one pumpkin. The teacher may also pick one pumpkin for the class. We encourage you to bring pre-printed labels or a permanent marker for putting the names on each bag. Once the hayride has ended, wheelbarrows can be used to transport all of the pumpkins back to the buses or cars. We find you can save a lot of time if you designate some chaperones to wheelbarrow your pumpkins to the parking lot so that the group can proceed to the next station. Tour Guides at the wagon unloading area will direct your group to the next station.



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What should we bring?

- Bag lunch (or money for concessions)
- Backpacks are very highly recommended
- Water bottles
- Pre-printed labels or permanent marker for pumpkin bag
- Cameras & batteries (CAUTION – Many cameras, cell phones, and keys get lost in the Fun Barn and on the Hayride. Please secure items.)
- Sun screen
- Bug spray is rarely needed
- Allergy medicines, if applicable
- Umbrella or wet weather gear, if applicable. The maze is a corn field and if it has been rainy the paths can be a little muddy

What should we wear?

- Comfortable shoes – you will be walking on gravel, grass and in a 8 acre cornfield. The farm covers a square mile, so be ready to enjoy the fresh air.
- Layers – it is generally cool in the morning, and warm by lunch. **ALL ACTIVITIES ARE OUTSIDE**
- Backpacks are a great idea as they greatly facilitate each person (especially children) to return home with all their belongings.
- It is highly recommended that you **NOT** wear perfumes – there are working bees on the farm that may be attracted to sweet scents.