

SUNRISE COMMUNITY FARM CENTER, LLC

Trailblazer Farm Camp Program Description

Dear Parents & Participants,

At Sunrise Community Farm Center our mission is to empower all ages through sustainable, inclusive community farming. We foster a sense of belonging where every individual feels valued and discovers their unique contribution to a thriving community. By embracing the primary elements of partnership, we cultivate essential life skills and inspire meaningful engagement with the world around us.

In summer camps, our program aims to build skills for life using the farm as a model environment!

Trailblazers: Skills we offer Opportunities to Build

For independent, energetic campers (8-12) who are ready for challenges and adventures, and want to practice hands-on-skills, Trailblazer Farm Camp is a perfect fit. Trailblazers participate in activities in every area of the farm as a portion of their morning block. In the afternoon, they learn to individually use the CRAFTS of Partnership to experience growth in areas of their choosing. Our goals for them are to:

Build unique, independent partnerships with nature and each other that:

1. Introduce partnership concepts and ways to practice them, and
2. Think Forward about Growth (Goal Setting and Breakthroughs), and
3. Practice individual expression within a community (social and creative), and
4. Improve individual social skills and group communication, and
5. Take on responsibilities and earn privileges on a sustainable community farm.

Build Unique, Independent Partnership with Nature & Each Other

In nature and communities, partnership (interdependence) is the latest stage of development. The first step to blazing a new trail is independence. Trailblazers practice independent skills to build positive relationships and create lasting friendships with nature and each other through the CRAFTS of Partnership.

Communication: Know people and nature communication styles, recognize meaningful behaviors, and form new connections using good communication.

Respect: Understand, learn, and respect caring leadership. Respect personal needs and recognize the needs of others.

Acknowledgement: Learn, practice, and appreciate generosity and clear communication.

Friendship: Develop bonds with our Mentors, friends, animals and nature through this generosity, clear communication, and acknowledgement.

Trust: Build trust with each other through respect, friendship, and consistency.

Setting Good Boundaries: Learn what is an appropriate boundary and how to set them under the guidance of our Mentors.

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Activity Elements & Examples We Offer

1) Introduce the Steps to Partnership and Ways to Practice Them

Trailblazer Camps daily classes and themes are centered around the partnerships that already exist between people and farms, or people and wilderness.

Example Activities & Lessons: Three-Sisters Gardens, roots and mushroom growth, animal and garden partnerships, cover cropping, people breathing and tree breathing, team games, etc.

2) Think Forward about Growth

As they begin to grow in independence and self-awareness, Trailblazer campers meet unique challenges and have unique opportunities to meet them. We encourage campers to craft their own experience through goal setting, overcoming obstacles, and finding deeper meaning and higher achievement through choice in their electives.

Example Activities: Small Animal training and enrichment, long-term projects, nature exploration, animal enrichment, acknowledgement & homemade gifts, Mentor-interest and camper-interest based activities, etc.

3) Practice Individual Expression within a thriving Community

Individual expression is how we learn to communicate, which is a vital skill in our growing society! At camp we have a multitude of opportunities to practice different ways of communicating, performing and creating art, and learning about different communication styles using animals, plants, our community of Mentors, and all of nature as a rich source of examples and teachers.

Example Activities: Dramatic plays and theatrical shows, Mentor-led drumming circles, friendship bracelets & crafts, creating & repairing relationships, leadership opportunities, service projects, responsibilities, etc.

4) Improve Individual Social Skills & Group Communication

Trailblazers are able to mix and mingle in their afternoon elective activities. In addition to building their knowledge, skill, or exploring their creativity in certain areas, campers can deepen friendships and their understanding of behaviors and their consequences under the guidance of our Mentors.

Example Activities: Group/Team Games, Name Games, Ball Catch, Charades, Mimicry Games, Animal Behavior Games, Story-telling, working together on team projects, fort building, woodshop projects, camper-led formation of groups based around friendship and camaraderie, and guidance from our Mentors.

5) Practice Individual Responsibilities on a Community Farm

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As a community, things become easier and faster when we all can take care of ourselves. Trailblazers learn the importance of independence as a step toward deeper levels of partnership and greater opportunities and privileges. Mentors act as a support system to guide their individual and group reflections on our impacts through our actions. Examples: Swim Test, Creekstomp, Wilderness Exploration, Elective Opportunities, learning through experience, pushing ourselves to not only try new things but to understand them.

Sincerely,

Sunrise Community Farm Center