Educational Group Program Guide

To schedule an Educational Trip for your students or for more information:

Contact
Tim Roberts
Phone: (901)757-7777 extension 7109
E-mail: tim.roberts@utk.edu.
Program Information

Educational Mission

The charge of Agricenter International is to provide education and awareness in Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resources to the public. It is our goal that Agricenter be utilized as an outdoor classroom for Memphis and the entire Mid-South!

General Information

Agricenter offers schools and teachers many great programs within their curricula to demonstrate the importance of agriculture, forestry, and natural resources and its relationship to the environment. The programs are designed to provide students with a valuable and enjoyable experience which enhances the students understanding of science and the great outdoors. The programs have been designed to align with the State Science Curriculum Standards and classroom experiences. Programming can be tailored to assist teachers with specific areas of their curriculum.

Bus Scholarships

Bus Scholarships are available for schools to cover the cost of busing. Schools should schedule the busing for their class or classes. If a school is using a service other than the normal bus service used to deliver students to school, prior arrangements with Agricenter’s Director of Education, Tim Roberts, must be made.

Once the schools receives the bill for the bus(es), fax the bill to (901)757-7783 attention Tim Roberts. Agricenter will write a check to the school for the amount of the bus(es) and mail it to the school.

Reservation Information

To make a reservation for your class or classes for an educational opportunity at Agricenter or for more information, contact Tim Roberts by phone at (901) 757-7777 extension 7109 or by e-mail at tim.roberts@utk.edu.

All programs are offered at no cost to schools. The programs can accommodate up to six classes on one time, unless specified.
Programs

Plant Exploration

*Limited scheduling dates:*
**September 10th through October 31st**

Come explore and learn about Cotton, Corn, and Soybeans from the farm fields. The learning will continue with various activities. We will focus on the roots, the leaves, and reproduction of these important plants. The students will enjoy activities such as Toss Salad and Every Plant for Itself. And if the cotton is mature, the students can get a souvenir to take home. This program is very suitable for 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students.

Discover the Forest

There are many amazing things in the forest for students to discover. One is our Mystery Box. Students are asked to reach in and identify items in the box by using their sense of touch. We discuss each cool item and how it relates to the forest. The students also learn about the parts of a tree and their jobs. Activities the students will enjoy are a journey as a water molecule and competing for life as a tree. Your 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students will enjoy this program and might just learn something about the forest and ecosystems along the way.
Water Festival

Our Water Festival is all about water. The students will rotate through each station at the festival. They will play Water Jeopardy, just like the game of TV. “The Tragic Story of Freddie the Fish” will take students on an imaginary trip down a stream with Freddie the Fish to identify possible sources of pollution that affect fish population and other wildlife. “Garbage Pizza” identifies items within each waste category and percentages for the amount of waste. A three-dimensional pie chart will be made showing waste categories and percentages. Other activities are H2Olympics, Incredible Journey, and the Enviroscape. This program is for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders.

Cow boy Up!

Howdy! Cowboy Steve invites all young buckaroos to come sit back and find out about ranching and rodeoing. Cowboy Steve will show you how to be a real cowboy by using his lariat, spurs, chaps, and many other cowboy tools. He will introduce everyone to his best friend and maybe everyone will get to pet him. If you want to be a cowboy, you will get the chance at roping a steer and breaking in a saddle. The program is geared toward kindergarten-first graders.

Package or Seed Tour

Our Package or Seed Tour looks at many of the fruits and vegetables at the Farmers’ Market. We will discuss; do we eat the package, seed, or both of the fruits and vegetables. We present all the different sizes, shapes, and colors. A story will be enjoyed by all the students. If weather permits, we can take a ride on our Country Cadillac. This program is geared for kindergarten-first grade classes.
Forest Stand Evaluation

**Junior High and Senior High Audiences**

*Limited to approximately 50 students*

The students go into the forest to evaluate a tree population. The students are split into groups and a real life situation as *Timber Cruisers*. They learn how to measure a tree and how to look at the trees as a buyer. Each group measures the trees and calculates the values of the timber on a 1/16th acre. They will continue to calculate the value of an acre and use that in their life situation. Each group will submit in a sealed bid for a tract of timber for their company to purchase. At the conclusion of this exercise, we will discuss the different careers in Forestry and how this experience would relate to a career in Forestry.

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Nature Hike

Come go with us on a Nature Hike. We will go exploring different kinds of plants and animals. The guided tour will go all the way down to the Wolf River and through the forest. We will stop look at different types of plants and talk about their characteristics, growth, and even some history of the plants. We will even talk about exotic plants; how they came to the United States, how they affect us, and what can we do. Animals are all over the area and can be spotted occasionally. This program can be educational for 3rd graders to high school students.
Special Programs

Progressive Agriculture Safety Day for Urban Youth

This is a program for 4th and 5th graders. Each year two schools are invited to bring their students to our Progressive Agriculture Safety Day. The students and teachers are presented with an official Safety Day t-shirt. The students learn about different safety topics. For example, they will learn about warning signs that animals show during the Animal Safety presentation. During Chemical Look-A-Likes, students can see how deceiving chemicals can be hazardous to their health. Students take the Look-A-Like challenge to see if they can identify the non-poisonous item. They also learn about Bicycle Safety and see a demonstration of the importance of wearing a helmet. The students enjoy lunch and at the conclusion of the program are presented with a goodie bag to take home. The bag has items about safety, a pencil, stickers, and many other goodies. All presenters are Houston High School FFA members.

Farm Education Day

Ya’ll come on down to the Farm and learn all about the different aspects of agriculture. Stop at the Farm Machinery to see how large it looks up close and learn how cotton is picked. Drop by to see all the animals from chickens to horses. You might even get to pet the horse. Walk inside the building to see Forestry and learn about trees. Go the Cotton booth. Did you know we eat cotton (and that’s not Cotton Candy)? See all the products that can be made from Corn. Did you know we can fuel our cars with Soybeans? How many soybeans do you think we can put in a car? Would you like to see an insect the size of a bit-size candy bar? Learn about all the vegetables that can be grown. When you get finished you might want to buy a tractor and get started farming. This is a one day event that is usually scheduled in November. This program is geared toward fifth grade students. Ya’ll Come Back Ya’Hear!
Enviro Ed Expo

Enviro Ed says; pack up your 4th and 5th grade students for a day of fun and learning. The students rotate around the different stations and learn about water, trees, wildlife, and recycling. The event is scheduled for spring. Here is an idea of some of the fun activities. America has not always had running water. Students get to experience what it was like to move water from one location to another at the Long Haul. They may learn how a tree functions with Build-A-Tree. At the next station, the class is split into two teams for a little friendly competition of Water Jeopardy. They may even learn about recycling with Recycle Relay. There are so many activities for the students to learn about the environment. Come join the fun. Call for date and time.

Arbor Day Celebration

In Tennessee, Arbor Day is always held on the first Friday in March. J. Sterling Morton, a newspaper journalist, is honored as the father of Arbor Day. In 1872, he spoke at the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture meeting, proposing a statewide tree planting holiday for the month of April. The Arbor Day idea spread to other states. In 1875, Tennessee became one of the first states to adopt this special day. In 1946, Arbor Day was changed to the first Friday in March. Tennessee law calls for educators, civic societies and government officials to create “a better understanding of nature and the importance of protecting wildlife, planting and cultivating flowers, and setting and protecting trees.” Agricenter celebrates Arbor Day with a program for students to learn about forestry, wildlife, and nature.

Note:

Teachers, if you have something that you would like for us to concentrate on during our program, please ask. We will try if we can to accommodate your request.
Okay, your youth are experts with electronics. They can operate a computer, program a DVD player, use the TiVo and their iPod, but how much do they know about the earth’s ecosystem or the role that beneficial insects and animals play in our gardens? It’s time to get them outside! To expand their knowledge and appreciation for interactions within our environment and to acquaint them with basics of good gardening, Agricenter International, the Shelby County Extension, and your Memphis Area Master Gardeners have teamed together to provide a Plant Camp in June. Girls and boys, ages 8-12, will have the opportunity to learn about nature, while at the same time having fun; they are introduced to the outdoors! PLANT CAMP focuses on a different topic each year and will be educational and entertaining! Planned activities include daily ‘hands-on’ projects, educational discussions and games, make-&-take home projects, daily theme-related snacks, and a camp shirt. Hours are from 9AM till Noon (Monday–Friday). Enrollment is limited to 30 campers.

For More Information:

If you have questions about any of the information, you may contact Tim Roberts.

Address: 7777 Walnut Grove Rd.
Box 60
Memphis, TN  38120

Phone: 901-757-7777 extension 7109
Fax: 901-757-7783
Sponsors

Thanks to our sponsors for their valuable support of our programs. Without their support, we would not be able to present our educational opportunities. Their support is beneficial to today's youth, our communities, and the future. We know that because of their efforts, we will be able to continue serving the community for years to come.

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- Kirby-Wells Plantation, LP
- Lumbermen's Club of Memphis
- Memphis AgriBusiness Council
- Memphis Board of Trade
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- Shelby County Farm Bureau
- State of Tennessee
- Syngenta
- Tennessee Soybean Assn.
- Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
- United Agri Products
- USA Woods International, Inc.
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- Wal-Mart
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ACROSS
1. Oleo ________ comes from corn and soybeans.
3. A baby cow or bull.
4. Where milk comes from.
6. Red fruit that grows on trees.
8. A freshwater fish in the salmon family.
10. A small grain popular for its use in cereal.
11. Cows and bulls on a farm or ranch.
13. 43,560 square feet.
14. ________ bread.
15. A single small hard seed.
16. A cow that has not had a calf yet.
18. A product used with pancakes, waffles, etc. (2 words)
21. Maple syrup is made from ________.
20. Baked ________.
22. A male cattle.
23. A female horse.
24. A spout that is inserted into a maple tree.

DOWN
1. The sound a cow makes.
2. A purple or green fruit that grows on a vine in clusters.
3. Bugs Bunny’s favorite food.
5. Rain, snow, sunshine, sleet, etc.
7. A legume whose seeds are used to make oil, flour and meal.
11. ________ on the cob.
12. Horse
17. Mary had a little ________.
19. Ewe’s mate.
**Corn Poppin' Facts**

- Popcorn pops because water is stored in a small circle of soft starch in each kernel. As the kernel is heated, the water heats, the droplet of moister turns to steam and the steam builds up pressure until the kernel finally explodes to many times its original volume.
- Americans today consume 17.3 billion quarts of popped popcorn each year! The average American eats about 68 quarts!
- While the first breakfast cereal was made by adding sugar and milk to popped popcorn, a shortage of baking flours after World War II forced breadmakers to substitute up to 25% of wheat flour with ground popped popcorn. Over the years, popcorn also has been used as an ingredient in pudding, candy, soup, salad and entrees.
- Popcorn's nutritional value comes from the fact that, like other cereal grains, its primary function is to provide the body with heat and energy.
- Microwave popcorn is the same as other popcorn except the kernels are usually larger and the packaging is designed for maximum popability.

**Stacking Up!**

- The batter used to make pancakes is almost exactly the same as the batter used to make regular cakes. The pancake batter is just a little thinner.
- Pancakes have become so popular, that people don't just eat them for breakfast anymore. Many people like to eat pancakes for dinner!
- On Pancake Day in Newfoundland (the day before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of lent), items are placed in the pancake batter before it is cooked to foretell the future for family members. If a boy received an item for a trade, it meant he would enter that trade. If a girl received an item for a trade, it meant she would marry a person from that trade.

**Pizza Perfect**

- Americans eat approximately 100 acres of pizza each day, or 350 slices per second.
- Each man, woman and child in America eats an average of 46 slices (23 pounds) of pizza a year.
- Pepperoni is America's favorite topping (36 percent of all pizza orders we eat approximately 251,770,000 pounds a year!
- In America, anchovies always rank last on the list of favorite toppings.
- In 1830 pizza truly began with the opening of the world's first pizzeria. Port' Alba, the pizzas were cooked in an oven lined with lava from Mount Vesuvius, a volcano located on the Bay of Naples.
- Pizza makers have tried virtually every type of food on pizzas, including peanut butter and jelly, bacon and eggs and mashed potatoes!
- According to Domino's, some of the more popular international toppings are pickled ginger, minced mutton and tofu in India, squid (octopus) and Mayou Jaga (mayonnaise, potato and bacon) in Japan, and green peas in Brazil. In Russia, they serve pizza covered with mockba, which is a combination of sardines, tuna, mackerel, salmon and onions. In France, a popular combo is called the Flambee, with bacon, onion and fresh cream.