



SPROUTS SCHOOL GARDEN SUMMER CAMP HANDBOOK



Community Food Initiatives (CFI), in partnership with the Athens City School District, is excited to be offering a week of School Garden Summer Camp!

WHAT TO EXPECT: Fun hands-on activities, experiments, and art projects focused on the science of sustainable agriculture, growing and eating healthy food, caring for our environment, and the importance of local farms. All camp mornings include a local snack.

WHO IS TEACHING: Sessions will be led by a combination of Athens City School District teachers, CFI staff, and local agricultural professionals, utilizing the school's garden and cafeteria spaces. Camp lessons will be supported by a team of youth Garden Education Mentors (GEMs), students in grades 5-12 who have completed the CFI Sprouts Program or have other experience in farms and gardens.

WHERE CAMP TAKES PLACE: We'll be at East Elementary on Monday and Tuesday; Morrison Gordon Elementary on Weds and Thursday; and Friday's camp will take place at the Ohio University Student Farm where families will be invited to join us at noon for a farm-fresh snack together and tour of the space.

Camp will be held rain or shine with cancellations for severe inclement weather communicated to participants via text or phone call. Most camp activities will take place outdoors, weather permitting, with some activities done in the cafeteria or other indoor spaces as appropriate.

DETAILS:

Age: Rising 2nd & 3rd grade (current 1st & 2nd) students from East & Morrison Gordon

Dates: Mon June 23-Fri June 27, 2025

Times: Monday - Thursday drop off 8:30-9am, pick up 12:00pm; Friday drop off 8:30-9am, family hour at 12pm; dismissal/pick up 1pm

Camp site address - note camp meets at different locations throughout the week!

***Mon 6/23 & Tues 6/24** East Elementary, 3 Wallace Dr.

***Weds 6/25 & Thurs 6/26** Morrison Gordon, 793 West Union St

Fri *6/27 Ohio University Student Farm 338 West State St (Families are invited to join us at noon on Friday for farm-fresh snacks!)

Arrival and pick up specifics:

***East:** Turn onto Verona Dr to access the teacher parking lot adjacent to the garden.

***MoGo:** Use the bus entrance (closer to the Athens Church of Christ) that leads to the garden.

***OU Student Farm:** Follow signs on West State St (just before driving range)

Cost: \$150 (a limited number of scholarships are available)

Payments can be made through the online registration form with a credit card or at first drop off with a check.

Checks may be mailed ahead of time to Community Food Initiatives, 94 Columbus Road, Athens OH 45701 - please include "Sprouts Camp" in the memo line.

Families requesting scholarship support should complete the registration form and check the box for the level of scholarship they are seeking.

Contact Molly@communityfoodinitiatives.org with any questions about registration or payment.

WHAT TO BRING:

- Clothing: Wear comfortable clothes and shoes that are appropriate for outside play and discovery, we will likely be getting dirty in the gardens! No open-toed shoes, please.
- Water bottle
- A raincoat or hoodie on rainy days
- A sun hat or baseball cap on sunny days
- Bring or wear sunscreen
- Bring or wear insect repellent

WHAT NOT TO BRING:

- Digital devices
- Weapons or toy weapons of any kind
- Toys or items that could be broken or lost outside
- Gum or candy
- Pets (Service Animals are welcome)
- Alcohol, drugs, and tobacco products

MEDICAL PLAN:

The Camp Director or staff will hold all medication. **Children are not allowed to be in possession of any prescription or non-prescription medication.** Prescription medication, including inhalers and epi-pens, must be clearly labeled in its original container, and accompanied by a statement signed and dated by the doctor explaining exact dosage, directions, and time to be administered.

Over the counter medication may be dispensed with signed permission and dosages from the caregiver or guardian.

Camp staff will treat minor injuries such as small cuts, bumps, and insect bites with soap, water, and adhesive bandages and will report injuries to caregivers at camp pick up. If the injury needs further treatment, the Camp Director will contact the caregiver, guardian, or emergency contact.

ACCESSIBILITY:

Both the school garden spaces and the schools themselves were designed to be ADA compliant and access should not be a problem for students with mobility devices. Please reach out to our staff if you have concerns.

HOW TO REACH US:

For general questions and more information, please contact Molly@communityfoodinitiatives. For needs that arise the day of camp/urgent situations, you can reach Molly Gassaway, our Camp Director. Registered families will be provided with a staff cell phone number to call/text during camp.

Thank you to our partners and funders for making this camp possible!



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