



“Cultivating a community passionate about preserving our agricultural heritage, educating and feeding our neighbors, and growing a sustainable future”

Field Trips to the Agriplex

The North Alabama Agriplex offers a variety of hands-on educational programs, free to all public schools in North Alabama. All lessons are correlated with Alabama state education standards and focus on agriculture, science and/or wildlife. All of our field trips are free for all public schools within Alabama, minus your transportation and/or lunch (if needed). *We have a few popularly requested field trips, but we can also design a custom field trip for a preferred unit of study if needed.*

All private institutions such as preschools, church schools, homeschools, scouts and any other group or organization will be charged:

- 1 hour and under = \$5 per student, minimum of 15 students or \$75
- 1.5 hour - 2 hour = \$10 per student, minimum of 15 students or \$150
- 3-4 hours, plus space in the pavilion, \$20 per child, or \$300 minimum

****There might be an upcharge for supply programs.*

If you do not see a program you're looking for, please give us a call or email for focused/customized lessons! We will try our best to serve your group's requests.

Field trips to the North Alabama Agriplex

All Grades:

- **Adventures at the Agriplex (spring/summer/fall - all ages)** this field trip takes students all over our grounds learning about our honey bees, eastern box turtles, earthworms/composting, raised garden beds and ends with farm related relay games.

- **Farm to Table** is another popular field trip for (*spring/summer/fall - all ages*).
 - ❖ Hands-on planting and learning about the importance of growing your own food.
 - ❖ Following directions of a recipe using measurements and estimates to make smoothies from locally grown produce.
 - ❖ Learning how agricultural commodities are transported from producers to consumers.
 - ❖ Students make a visual food web to explore the role of agriculture in their daily lives.

Pre-K:

- **Bunnies (*spring*)** - Students will have the opportunity to have hands-on-learning with our Agriplex bunnies, make a bunny craft, play bunny games, and even try bunny treats.
- **Signs of Fall (*fall*)** - Students will learn about leaves and acorns, make crafts, try fall snacks, and participate in some fall festival style activities.

Kindergarten and 1st Grade:

- **Peter Rabbit (*spring*)** - Based on the famous story by Beatrix Potter, children will taste foods mentioned in the story (radishes, lettuces, beans, blackberries and chamomile tea), make a bunny craft to take home and pet a live rabbit at the end.
- **Bugs 'n Slugs (*late spring/summer*)** - Learn the differences between bugs and slugs, view specimens, hunt for live bugs, play bug related games and/or make a bug themed craft to take home.
- **Seed Safari (*fall*)** - Students learn about the importance, variety and design of seeds, dissect seeds, taste seeds and make a living seed necklace. They will end the program going on a safari, hunting seeds outdoors around the Agriplex.
- **Little Red Hen (*fall*)** - Students listen to the story, learn how wheat is grown and harvested (then and now), play with real dough, hand thresh wheat, grind wheat berries (seeds) in a grinder to see how wheat is made and taste fresh bread with butter or jam!

2nd and 3rd Grade:

- **Charlotte's Web (*spring*)** - The students get the opportunity to connect their classroom lesson to the farm. Each rotation will focus on a different character in the book, explaining more about the farm animal.
- **All About Chickens (*spring/summer/fall*)** - Students will learn the life cycle stages of chickens, learn the different products we get from chickens, learn about broilers versus layers, see how to know if an egg is really fresh, see and pet baby chickens (when available), see our chickens in the Agriplex chicken coop, make a take home chicken themed craft, play an egg toss game for prizes.
- **Pollinator Friends (*spring*)** - Students learn what pollination is, why it's important to us and how it is accomplished by our "pollinator friends" with

visual aids and a hands-on cheetos pollination activity/snack. We will make a craft to take home and even catch and release pollinators if they're available.

- **Pumpkin Palooza (fall: Oct./Nov.)** - Students learn the life cycle of the pumpkin plant and parts of a pumpkin, engage in a STEM based construction activity, taste different pumpkin products/recipes, and utilize their hand-eye coordination while participating in pumpkin games.
 - If requested, can have a supply charge for about \$3 per student, for each child to take home a small/medium pumpkin.
- **Apples (fall: Aug./Sept.)** - Listen to a story about apples, learn how apples grow, taste different varieties, play apple themed games and/or make an apple themed craft to take home.
 - If requested, can have a supply charge for about \$1-2 per student, for each child to take home a local apple.
- **Botany Basics (fall)** - Students learn how plants relate to our daily lives and what being a botanist is all about as they rotate through different hands-on learning stations. They learn the parts of plants and their respective jobs, taste parts of plants (roots, stems, leaves, stalks, flowers and seeds). They also learn what propagation is and different modes of propagation, they even propagate a plant to take home.

4th and 5th Grade:

- **Good Bugs vs. Bad Bugs (spring)** - Learn the differences between good and bad bugs for the garden. Dive into true insects, arachnids, annelids, mollusks, gastropods etc., view specimens, hunt for/observe live bugs, play bug related games.
- **Everyday is Earth Day (spring/fall)** - Learn how our day to day habits have lasting environmental impacts through hands-on learning activities for all ages! See what it means to reduce reuse & recycle!
- **Fruit Salad (spring)** - Students learn what makes a fruit a fruit and not a vegetable, learn the internal and external parts of a fruit by dissecting fruits, learn about local fruits and how climate and soil affect their growth, make fruit salad to eat and play a relay based fruit naming game.
- **Life Cycles (Late spring to early fall)** - Focuses on Alabama wetlands and three animals and their life cycles (frogs, dragon flies and turtles), students see live animals, learn each of their life cycle stages, and participate in a hands-on activity at each of the three to four learning stations.
- **Soil Science (spring/fall)** - Learn the difference between dirt and soil, explore compost, learn about the distinct layers of the earth and the different particles of our soil (sand, silt and clay), make an edible snack representing layers of the earth and meet some of our decomposer friends, aka earthworms.
- **Hatchet (spring/fall)** - based on the book by Gary Paulsen and is **offered in the spring or fall**. Most **4th-5th graders** read this at some point - we do team based learning and book review. Students are put into teams.

Every person in each team will become an “expert” on one of the four stations. When the teams rotate through the four stations, the team “experts” take over the teaching portion of that station for their team and literally teach their team what they’ve learned earlier from Agriplex educators. Each team is graded at each station on how well they work together, participation, teaching skills etc. At the end, scores are counted, the winning team is announced and awarded a small prize (usually a paracord bracelet or compass keychain). Stations for our Hatchet program include:

- ❖ fire building
- ❖ wild edibles
- ❖ shelter building
- ❖ water collection/purification

6th-12th Grade: (specified grade range, but can be adapted)

- **Tour of the North Alabama Agriplex (*spring/summer/fall*)** - This can be added to another field trip program, or alone, depending on time allowed. Each group is guided through a walk of our grounds and learns about our history and mission. They will see and learn about: our chickens (dual purpose), honey bees (taste local honey), wildflower garden, rain garden, rain barrels, Eastern Box Turtle habitat, vermicomposting (worm bins), composting, raised bed gardening and meet our resident rabbits.
- **6th-8th: Crops of Alabama Then & Now (*fall*)** - We can summarize several crops or zoom in on any one crop for in depth learning (*corn, cotton, sweet potatoes, strawberries, peanuts & soybeans*). Education on each desired crop, tasting, craft and/or game is also included.
- **9th-12th: Dairy Program (*spring/fall*)** - Students dig deep into dairy products, their sources and more! Not everything comes from cow's milk! We will follow a recipe and enjoy eating what we make together.
- **9th-12th: The Science Of Bread (*spring/fall*)** - Where does bread come from, how do we get so many varieties in taste and color and more? Students learn the inner makings of different breads and taste fresh bread at the end of the program.



Weather Policy: Due to occupancy, if a Field Trip is “rained out” or “too cold,” the school or the Agriplex should take the necessary steps to cancel or reschedule, if the schedule allows.



Parent Policy: Limit 20 parents due to occupancy and parking. Parents must be respectful, if planning to attend. This means not causing a distraction during lessons, be it phone usage or talking. All uses of alcohol, vaping, cigarettes, etc. are prohibited on our property.



Sibling Policy: No siblings are allowed to join along, in the fieldtrip due to maximum occupancy.

Location Address:

North Alabama Agriplex (*just across from the Cullman Bowling Center*)

1714 Tallyho Street

Cullman, AL 35055

To schedule a field trip to the North Alabama Agriplex, please call our office (256) 297-1044 or email our Education Manager, Micaha McClain, at agriplexprograms@gmail.com.

