

Everything You Need To Know About Visiting James Farm Ecological Preserve With A School Group

History:

James Farm was once a working farm. As you look around you can still see evidence of farm fields. In the 1990's The property was given to Sussex County by Mrs. Mary Lighthipe. When she gave the land she stipulated that it be used for environmental and educational purposes. Mrs. Lighthipe also stated that she did not want any permanent structures built on the property. In 1998 The Delaware Center for the Inland Bays was enlisted to manage the property. Since that time trails were created, reforestation of farm fields began, and other research and restoration have started. Today the trails are used by many citizens and school groups.

Advance Planning

- Follow school procedures for field trips, including permission slips
- Be sure students dress appropriately – good walking shoes, clothing for the weather (it is often colder and windier at James Farm than at your school) and hats.
- If eating lunch at James Farm bring two trash bags as we are a carry-in/carry-out facility.
- You may want to bring hand sanitizer for hand washing.

Basic Procedures When Bringing A Class To James Farm

- Buses or cars may park in the parking lot
- As you walk down the drive from the parking lot you will notice a porta-john. This is the only restroom facility at James Farm. It is recommended that school children be supervised when using the porta-john and encourage to use it before going on the trails.
- As you walk further down the drive you will come to a grassy area with two sheds, benches and a pavilion with picnic tables.
- If you are planning to eat at James Farm and you are the only school group there that day you may feel free to leave lunches on the picnic tables while you are on the trail.
- Take your class to the benches or pavilion to begin your activity. Before beginning the activity go over the following guidelines for school groups at James Farm:
 - Stay on the cleared trails and boardwalks
 - Walk
 - Abide by all school rules
 - Remain with your group and chaperone
 - Carry only items necessary for your activity while on the trails
 - Remember we are here for a learning activity, we will not be going in the water today.
 - Take only photos, leave only footprints
- If you are eating lunch at James Farm, plan with all adult leaders the time for lunch. Use the pavilion area for lunch. As students finish their lunches collect all trash in the bags you have brought. Encourage the students to police the ground and leave the area as clean or cleaner than they found it.