

Learn With Us: 5 Years into Edible Schoolyard Stockton's Farm Field Trips



Photo credit: Erin Scott Photography

Drop in the chat!

What organization are you with? Where are you located?

Example: The Edible Schoolyard Project, Stockton CA

Meet Megan and Jenny!



Farm Educator - Megan Wirzberger



Farm Educator - Jenny Garcia

OUR MISSION

We aim to create an inspiring space for students to...

- Build skills
- Explore their relationship to food and food systems
- Experience the interconnectedness of all living things

At its heart, edible education is a dynamic and joyful learning experience for every child.



Today's Agenda

- Our farm and programming
- Field Trip Admin
- Field Trip Content
- Resource sharing Padlet
- Questions?



We want to hear from you! Please feel free to raise a hand to share your **thoughts**, **experiences**, **and questions** throughout the workshop!

Brief History of ESY Stockton



ESY Stockton began with seeds planted during a conversation at an event, precovid.

'Field trips' began through a partnership with a local Stockton Unified School District elementary school.

Timely transition from another organization with a farm looking out of their lease.

Provide no cost field trips to 1000's of students per year on our South Stockton farm.

Community Farm



We are located in the **Port of Stockton** on 6 acres in a residential neighborhood.

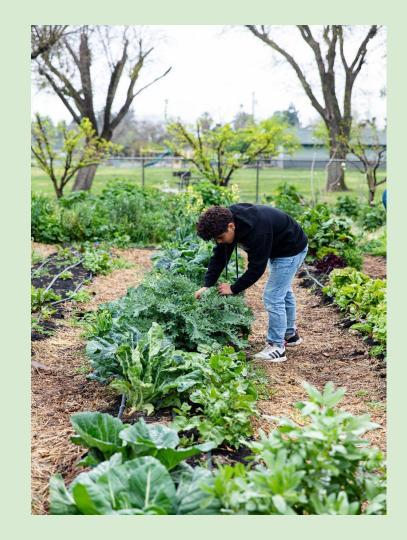
The farm is surrounded by industrial buildings and active train tracks.

Our farm consists separate production and educational sides.

Our Programming

- Field Trips
- Community Plots
- Community Classes
- CSA Program
- Farm Festivals

We support 32+ plot holders, distribute 130+ Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) produce bags weekly, and host school field trips to support local food and nutrition education + host 4 Farm Festivals annually.



Field Trip Program

Farm visits offer students a variety of **hands-on opportunities** such as:

- Cooking & Tasting!
- Planting
- Harvesting
- Feeding Chickens
- Art & more!

This program is open to K-12 students and community groups in San Joaquin County.





A Farm-to-Fork Experience

Students will **harvest and sample seasonal produce** from our farm, **exploring new flavors** and making
informed nutrition choices.

Many may experience harvesting and tasting locally grown food for the first time.



Booking Field Trips

- Book field trips beginning in August-June.
 - 'Slow season' in winter and summer
- Teachers often bring their classes back each year- it's best to stay in regular contact with school staff.
- Diverse range of community groups.

Remember: building out a program takes time!

How far in advance do you schedule out during the year?



PROJECT

Farm visits offer students a variety of hands-on opportunities like cooking, planting, harvesting, feeding chickens,

What students can learn

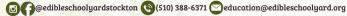
At ESY Stockton, our educators center play, curiosity, exploration, and rest — creating joyful learning that sparks critical thinking and a lifelong love of learning. Rooted in food justice, equality, and regenerative agriculture, we grow minds and communities together!

Interested in planning a field trip to the farm?

Our program is open to K-12 students and community groups in San Joaquin County and beyond. ESY Stockton is part of the Transformative Climate Communities grant to support our work, some SUSD Schools receive financial support for the cost of transportation.













Field Trip Request Questions

Have you or your current class been to the farm for a field trip before? If yes, please share a rough date & bullets from your lesson/day so we can best create our next day together.				
Your answer				
We are an outdoor farm and allergens such as hay, flowers, animals, and insects are present. Students will also receive a snack and try fresh produce. Please share any additional information about your students or describe special accommodations that might be needed. e.g. allergies, dietary restrictions, access needs.				
Please note we are allergy sensitive but not an allergen free space.				
Your answer				
Our field trips run from 10am-1pm but we can be somewhat flexible in some cases depending on your needs. Does this time work for you? If not, please explain what time you would like your trip.				
*Note: in the hottest months of June, July, and August field trips will take place from 9am-12pm. Please advise students to wear protective gear for the sun.				
○ Yes				
○ No				
Other:				

- Curriculum students will learn before or during their field trip to make connections with their field trip back at school
- Experiences with past field trips to the farm
- Possible allergens, sensitivities, or access needs
- Additional requests groups may have

I'll add the link in the chat in case you want to take a look!

Transportation



- Transportation requests can take 45+ days to get approved- so plan in the future as much as possible!
- To help speed up the process for schools, we met directly with the transportation department.
- We have grant fund to cover transportation within our deliverable areas.

This is an area for growth- we'd love to hear about what's worked for you!



Program Growth

Questions we asked ourselves:

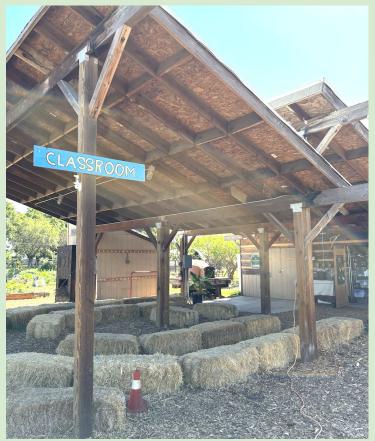
- How many students can we support at a time without feeling overwhelmed?
- What level of physical spaciousness do we have/need to support larger groups?
- How can we incorporate school staff or chaperones during the field trip?
- What do we need to deliver impactful experiences to each student?

Please share any questions you've asked yourself about program growth in the chat!



Learning Spaces





Outdoor Classroom





We face many challenges operating outdoors and are always looking for solutions. What challenges do you face with your educational spaces? Drop in the chat!

Opening Circle & Tone Setting

- Intro our Farm Friends
 - Names & edible alliteration
- Ask Questions
 - Who's been to a farm before?
 - What are some things that will help keep us safe today?
 - What do you want to learn?
- Settle into the Space
 - Grounding breathes or note senses
 - Wiggle / stretch to awaken
- Generating Ownership
 - Safety captain + clean up captain
 - o Share the days agenda
- Encourage Courage!



Our ESY Stkn team



Lessons

Our education team works to align classroom material with farm experiences. Lessons vary with grade level and season:

- Plant and Animal Life Cycles
- Seed and Plant Anatomy
- Food Justice and Nutrition
- Seasonality and Organic Farming

Engagement



- Ask *more* questions
- Games simple reframing + build excitement
- Share areas of lesson not covered in the their answers use fun facts (have them pull a card)
- Stations smaller groups + shorter time blocks & more hands on opportunities



Rotations

- Snack
- Farm Exploration
- Art
- Gardening Activity

-Students having choices: solo or group, stations to pick from -What works well for you?



Food & Freedom

- **Lunch** brought from school/home
- Set the tone & share:
 - o any areas are off limits greenhouse
 - where to leave their food waste chickens
 - o what to listen for cowbell
 - clean up instructions 5 minutes to ...
 - where we'll meet back in the classroom
- 30-60 minutes for lunch + **free time**
 - We encourage spaciousness in students time on the farm



Sorting Station

Tools

- Magnify Glasses
- Books
- Clipboards
- Chalkboards
- Games
- Art Supplies
- Sorting Station
- Free time
- Choices







Closing Circle



- Reflection
- Mindful Moment
- Gratitudes
- Invitations to upcoming events
- Clean up / LNT
- Photo Op

Planning Resources

Notes: last wk activity = seed planting, snack + plot explorations/observations

Start	End	Activity	Leads
8:45am	9:15	Set up - 1 water station in classroom (cups & pencils) + cowbell - table + snack equipment = salad + dressing - Pull out recipes, recipe books as examples (considerations cards) - Count squash left over in the fridge from CSA	JG & MW
9:30	9:45	Arrival and Announcements * Ask head count + any new forms Megan Wirzberger - Pick: safety captains + cleanup captains, - Remind: hydration, bathrooms, team farm names - Recap: last week's activity, seeding + plots - Review respectful behavior + cowbell	Jenny
9:45ar 7 20 mins each	5 mins to switch	Rotation stations 1) In the <u>classroom</u> = snack: make a simple dressing for salad by measuring ingredients + enjoy it together -students read the recipe out loud before starting -break into groups & support different parts (dressing, washing produce, toppings stations, plating, etc) 2) In <u>gathering spot</u> = recipe review: what are the parts, how is it measured, timing/# of servings (structure) -reading some recipes out loud to see what they have in common/differences, which layouts they like bestbreak into small groups to review recipes -Q&A & have consideration cards on hand	Megan & Jenny If available, 1-2 fellows or farm crew to support each station, thx!
10:30	10:45	Clean up captains support clean up Jenny Garcia while group reflects on the parts of a recipe +Q&A leading up to their presentations next week • Offer squash to students	Megan

Additional activities:

- Knife handling / chopping technics & feed food straps to chickens
- Seed saving / dead head Don's Marigolds & Zennias + games / free time

"No Kitchen?" Tool List Worksheet

Important Tools:	Approximate Price	Do I want this tool?
Paring knife	\$5	
Cutting board or mat	\$10	
Box grater	\$8	
Peeler	\$3	
Juicer	\$10	
Set of mixing bowls	\$20	
Mortar and pestle	\$25	
Spatula	\$5	
Wooden spoon	\$3	
Whisk	\$5	
Measuring spoons and cups	\$5	
Storage bins	\$?	
Towels	\$?	
Bench scraper	\$2	
Zester	\$7	
Microplane	\$12	
Garlic peeler	\$7	
Wavy knife	\$7	

Questions to consider when designing your tool kit:

What tools are age appropriate for my students? How many students will be cooking at one time? Do I have somewhere to clean up my tools on site? Is cooking or tasting the focus?

Tips for assembling your tool kit:

Try talking to a local restaurant or kitchen supply store and see if they are willing to donate some materials.

You may have to shop around to find tools you are happy with

Restaurant supply stores are good options for inexpensive tools.

You can start with just a few of each tool and purchase more of the ones that get used most often.

Remain Flexible





Take 5 minutes to fill out this Padlet:

https://padlet.com/Edible Schoolyard/farm-field-trip-inspiration-board-rzebj2z8jjqrnxz8



Many thanks for joining & sharing with us today! We are grateful to be in this meaningful endeavor with you.

Let's stay connected... @EdibleSchool yardStockton

