

Welcome to Oxbow Farm & Conservation Center! We are grateful you could join us. Here are some tips for being an effective visiting chaperone or teacher:



Adult chaperones and teachers will help to:

- **Keep students safe.** Watch where students’ feet go, and see that they wait to be invited before tasting farm food.
- **Ensure that food goes into bellies, not baggies!** During Farm Adventures, we harvest food straight from the ground and into our bellies and discourage use of plastic baggies to save food items for later.
 - Oxbow is a certified organic farm. Our food is safe to eat when freshly picked, after most of the dirt is removed (a little dirt doesn’t hurt!)
- **Bring students/small groups of students to the restroom during a tour as needed.** Ideally, students should try to take care of these needs in advance of the tour.
- **Gather students together,** whether keeping up with the group, forming a circle, etc.
 - Stay with or help re-engage wandering students.
 - If students need to wander away from the group, that’s OK—as long as they’re safe and accompanied!
 - Students will be invited to run/fly/wiggle ahead while transitioning from station to station. This is a part of our programs at Oxbow! Wiggle with us!
- **Model engaged behavior.** Step out of your comfort zone by tasting foods, touching worms, and singing songs!
- **Allow space for students to answer questions themselves**—even if they don’t know the answers!
 - Help to ask other engaging questions. Some useful prompts are: “What makes you think that?” “What do you know about ____?” “What do you notice?”
- **Save personal gardening/farming questions for the end of the field trip.**
- **Limit photography.** Photos are okay, but please don’t let photography interfere with engagement.
- **Avoid using phones** except when absolutely necessary.
- **Ensure that groups “leave no trace,” especially if staying for lunch at Oxbow.**
- **Check with the teacher about bringing siblings to the field trip:** While we do not charge adults to chaperone along with student groups, if chaperones would like to bring a younger sibling who will NOT be participating in programming (babes in arms or younger toddlers), they may come at no additional charge. If a younger sibling is able to participate in tasting, exploring, and taking home an Oxbow treat, then we ask that they be included in the student head count with payment handled through your child’s teacher or field trip coordinator.

Additional notes for Teachers:

- **Be proactive in forming break-out groups.** We try and maintain a ratio of 8-12 students per educator. Please be prepared to break into smaller groups accordingly.

1-15 students	1 to 2 groups
16-20 students	2 to 3 groups
21-30 students	2 to 3 groups
31-45 students	3 to 5 groups
46-50 students	4 to 5 groups

- **Leave behind any preconceived notions about certain students**—we love to expose students who may struggle in a classroom setting to our outdoor classroom.
- **Treat the farm like an outdoor classroom,** where the Oxbow farmers are the teachers.
 - Support in group management, engagement, and redirection is welcome, provided it is not interfering with our practice.
- **Ensure that groups “leave no trace” after lunch**—pack it in, pack it out!