



Growing Minds Homeschool STEM Labs

With over 20 years of experience in the fields of education and horticulture, we have programs to fit the needs of all learners and educational groups. All lessons are taught at the Growing Minds Educational Farm. Each two-hour interactive STEM lab session is aligned to SC Science Standards and taught by SC certified teacher, Katie Donohoe. Each lab involves a lesson, hands on activity and will be followed by exploration time in our outdoor learning lab.

Part I - Budding Botanists - For New Students

Lab One - Farm Tour

Join us for an "I spy" walk around the farm where you will see our beehives, grape vines, vegetables and more! Participants will meet our chickens, Princess Laya and friends as well as our resident goats – Willy, Billy and Tina! We will take a break at the goat barn where you will have the opportunity to feed our goats a banana followed by an introduction to our outdoor learning lab where participants will be able to explore our outdoor learning stations.

Lab Two - Super Seeds

It is important for students to understand that seeds are not dead but are actually very alive. They will discover that seeds are “sleeping” in a dormant state just waiting for the right conditions to wake them up! Students will learn the proper conditions for seed germination as well as plant growth. Once students learn the proper steps for seed germination, they can begin their journey of growth along with their plants. After they are armed with the knowledge to wake these sleepy seeds they will apply what they have learned by planting their own seeds which they will take with them to continue growing at home.

Lab Three - Lovely Leaves

Lab three begins with an investigation into the most commonly eaten plant part, the leaves. We will explore the fascinating way that plants make their own food through photosynthesis. Students learn that, just like us, leaves come in all shapes and sizes. Leaves have even adapted to have developed adaptations to protect themselves as well as survive extreme conditions. Students will assemble and plant their own microgreen growing tray that they will take home to grow their own nutritious and delicious leaves.

Lab Four - Roots and Shoots

In this lab, we will explore the fascinating way that plants take up water and nutrients with their roots and move it all the way up the plant through the stems. Students will also learn that seeds are not the only way to propagate new plants. This week students will take home yet another plant to grow at home.

Lab Five - Flower Power and Pollinators

This lab will investigate the purpose of a flower which is to enable a plant to reproduce through pollination and formation of seeds. This lab unlocks the mystery of flowers and reveals the secret life of pollinators that make almost every bite of food we eat possible, including the honeybees that we have here at the farm.

Lab Six - Wonderful Worms

During this lab, we will dig into the process of making homemade nutrient rich plant food through process of composting. We will also explore using worms to speed up the process of composting. Participants will get to see the amazing process that breaks down the food we eat into a nutrient rich soil like substance for planting. Not only will students get to the process of composting here at the farm but they will take home some of this plant “super food” to feed to the plants that they have been growing from previous labs.

Part II - Keep Growing - For Returning Students

For students that have taken Part I, this class builds upon what was learned in the first class. Each week students will learn about and plant a new vegetable for their garden. Each week involves a lesson, hands on activity and will be followed by exploration time in our outdoor learning lab. During this class we begin to explore Planting Guilds so everything planted works together as a team.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the cost and where is the farm?

The cost is \$85 per student for the six class bundle (*Minimum 5 students per session. Maximum 15 students per session.*) Our address is 3050 Grape Lane, Mount Pleasant, SC 29466.

Can younger siblings attend?

Parents are welcome to bring younger siblings and supervise their play in the outdoor learning lab area adjacent to where our lesson will take place while their registered student(s) participate in the lesson and accompanying activities. If the sibling wants to participate in the lesson and activities then they will need to be registered as we will only have space and supplies for 15 students for each lesson.

Where do I register?

<https://growingmindsfarm.setmore.com/>

Cancellation policy?

If a class is cancelled due to inclement weather or circumstances beyond our control, we will provide a make-up class on the same day of the week and time window as the original class. We are unable to offer refunds but if your student misses a class, we can provide a take home kit which includes the missed planting activity.

Do I have to sign a waiver for each class?

You only have to sign our digital waiver once. Adult and all children that may attend can be put on the same waiver so it is easiest to put everyone on the first waiver then you do not have to add anyone at a later date. Our waiver link can be found on our website or by copying and pasting this link: <https://waiver.fr/p-eujkn>

Growing Minds Non-Profit Educational Farm

3050 Grape Lane Mount Pleasant SC 29466

www.growingmindsfarm.org