Planning your Celebration in the WFCF Learning Garden

Welcome to the planning phase of your special event in the Learning Garden! Please read over the following recommendations, including do's and don'ts, as you prepare for your gathering. Covid safety guidelines for WFCF gatherings are listed below along with additional resources provided by the state and CDC. These should be considered along with the WFCF Covid Safety Guidelines which you have agreed to in your Liability Waiver/Rental Agreement.

Please ensure your guests are aware this event is held outdoors on a working farm. Closed toe shoes are required. If you have chosen a rabbit or chicken activity, we recommend long pants/jeans and long-sleeved shirt to protect children interested in handling the animals.

You provide:
- Food and cake * See Covid Safety for Consumption of Food Guidelines attached.
- Party decorations (see dos and don'ts below)
- Set-up and clean up (and any supplies you would need to do so)
- Management of your guests, and assisting youth with any farm-based activities provided by WFCF Staff.
- Any additional games, party favors or activities - aside from your chosen farm-based activities provided by WFCF Staff.

We provide:
- Your choice of Farm-based activity for 45 minutes of party entertainment. See options below.
- Sheltered outdoor space which you are welcome to decorate (see dos and don'ts below)
- 26’ x 16’ indoor cottage for inclement weather (with doors and windows that open for airflow)
- 4 picnic tables and benches (stationary under the shelter), 2 plastic tables (moveable), Several benches and plastic chairs that can be moved to suit the needs of your group.
- Hand Sanitizer in key locations, 1 Soap and Water Hand Washing Stations, and access to bathrooms.
- Trash receptacle for any garbage that can not be composted or recycled.
- Compost bin for compostable materials.
- Disposable rubber gloves for 3 food handlers (adult size)

FARM BASED ACTIVITY OPTIONS: Families can choose a hen or rabbit theme. Each includes an animal interaction and a craft for up to 12 children for 45 minutes of entertainment with a WFCF Educator. (parents assist)

HEN FOCUS: Holding, petting, feeding hens.
MAKE & TAKE CRAFT: Make a Feather Wand or a Chicken “Comb” Headband craft.
RABBIT FOCUS: Rabbit Circle including petting and feeding rabbits.
MAKE & TAKE CRAFT: Make a Sock Rabbit or a Rabbit Ear Headband.

DIGGING PIT: Additional activity option.
For an additional fee of $25.00, the Digging Pit in the Learning Garden can be stocked with lucky coins and colorful gems for your guests to dig and hunt for treasures. Party guests can keep what they find in the Digging Pit as an additional party favor. *We recommend providing your guests with a small bag or container if you choose this as an add-on activity.

Consider bringing the following items depending on your plans for food and decor:
- Paper of fabric table cloths for table surfaces (4 picnic tables and 2 plastic tables)
- Disposable paper plates, napkins and plasticware for your guests (if needed)
- Paper towels and trash bag (we provide trash receptacle for bagged trash and spray sanitizer)
- Tape, twine and or push pins for hanging your paper or fabric decorations.
- Bin or reusable bags to collect cards and gifts from guests.
Decorating Do’s and Don’ts:

Decorating DOs

- Paper or fabric decorations are welcome!
- DIY or store-bought paper or fabric streamers, ribbons, flags, or other party decorations are all allowed and welcomed.
- You will be able to thumbtack, tie with twine, or tape your decorations to the wooden areas of the Learning Garden. Primary wooden areas include the Learning Garden Shelter, Wooden Trellis to the right of the shelter, and Learning Garden fence posts surrounding the garden space.
- Wired or fabric ribbon is okay. Please ensure wires are folded in at ends for safety.

Decorating DON’Ts

- We do not allow balloons of any type in the Learning Garden or on the farm due to the threat they pose to wildlife and farm animals.
- We do not allow plastic streamers or ‘party curtains’ in the Learning Garden or on the farm due to the threat they pose to wildlife and farm animals.
- Please try to avoid glitter whenever possible.
SINGING should be done with face coverings on, and before food is distributed, facing away from other humans. Encourage your guests to take some space from each other when singing happy birthday together. Singing is known to increase risk of exposure. Face masks and appropriate distances are absolutely necessary to sing together in a group setting. Distancing stick available for your use during your time in the Learning Garden to help manage social distancing. We recommend standing in a circle 6 feet apart and facing outward to sing. The Birthday celebrant can stand on a chair or table away from the circle.

Socially Distanced Seating for Eating:

- Configure seating / recreation areas to ensure 6 -10 feet distancing between individuals not in the same family group. Distance shall be measured from the closest boundary of one family or individual seating area to the closest boundary of another family or individual seating area. This includes boundaries of pathways for staff to distribute food or materials.
- Measuring tape and distancing sticks are available to you in the Learning Garden to help situate your guests for eating together.
- Once all parties are seated appropriately 6’ - 10’ apart in their family groups, food can be distributed.
- Any traditional self-serve party snacks should be pre-packaged and distributed to guests by an adult with clean, gloved hands once seated at their picnic blanket or table area.
- Masks should be worn by all parties until food has been completely distributed and everyone is seated.
- Once all parties have been seated and all food distributed, masks can be removed for eating at designated areas.
- We do not recommend using the picnic tables underneath the Learning Garden shelter for eating. If using picnic tables under the shelter, limit seating to 2 humans per table, and ensure all humans are facing the same direction (so there is no face to face contact between any 2 humans).

WE RECOMMEND you invite guests to bring a picnic blanket or lightweight beach chairs/lawn chairs for picnic-style snacking and cake. This allows everyone to spread out quickly and easily and does not contaminate surfaces. Tables and chairs can be adjusted in the garden as needed to distance as well.

WE RECOMMEND Cupcakes instead of birthday cake, or a combination of both, using cupcakes to distribute and the cake for your birthday guest of honor. Cupcakes and pre-packaged juices, milks, or snacks are easy to pass out, individually packaged, and require less touching, less paper/plastic containers, and reduce potential exposure before consumption.

- One cupcake, or small cake, can be set aside for your birthday celebrant to blow out a candle. Ensure your birthday youth is appropriately distanced from guests, surfaces, and all food items. Some families have had fun finding other ways to put a candle out including capping it with a small glass, using fireplace bellows, and spraying with a water mister.
- Consider singing at the end of your party and sending guests home with cupcakes and snacks if you have a large group gathered and have concerns about managing safety while eating in an outdoor setting together.
Party Games and Materials

- Multiplayer Games must be configured to permit 6 feet of distance between players at all times except that members of the same household may play games in closer proximity. Facemasks must be worn at all times during group games.
- All commonly touched physical materials must be sanitized between use - including the bean bags for Corn Hole and shovels for the Digging Pit.
- All craft and activity materials will be handed out individually by WFCF Staff or Party Hosts. Materials should not be shared once distributed. Guests will be able to take their craft home with them.
- The Digging Pit is open for your guests. Small plastic hand spades provided. 3-4 humans at a time in the Digging Pit to maintain distances.

Covid Safety Recommendations and Resources

Covid Safety Recommendations from mass.gov  For more information on recommendations and guidelines from the State, please refer to the Mask Advisory, MA Outdoor Recreation Task Force Presentation and or the Covid 19 document for Outdoor Parks and Activities

Covid Recommendations and Information from the City of Waltham

Covid Recommendations from the CDC for Social, In-Person Gatherings

Thank you for choosing our Learning Garden as a place for your family to celebrate safely together in the great outdoors on the farm!

Please direct any questions or concerns you may have to Jessica Herwick, Director of Education jessica@communityfarms.org