

MUSCOOT MONTHLY

Written by: Jen Campbell and Sarah Pieratti



SPRING PROGRAMS AT MUSCOOT FARM

Spring has arrived, and Muscoot Farm is excited to launch a variety of new programs starting in April that connect you with nature, animals, and the outdoors in fun and educational ways. Whether you're an experienced hiker or new to farm life, we have something for everyone!

Wilderness Walks

Explore Muscoot's scenic trails with our Wilderness Walks. Led by a staff, these guided hikes offer a chance to connect with nature, build confidence on the trails, and enjoy the beauty of the woods. Walks are weather-dependent, and you'll be notified 24 hours in advance if there's a cancellation. These walks are free for ages 16+, but registration is required.

Morning Grooming

In Morning Grooming, kids aged 12+ can help care for our horses and donkeys by brushing and grooming them. This hands-on experience teaches valuable animal care skills while promoting positive socialization. The cost is \$20 per participant, and children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Sunrise Hikes to the Overlook

Start your day with a Sunrise Hike to the Overlook. Catch the stunning views as the sun rises over the farm and surrounding landscape. This easygoing, peaceful hike is perfect for those seeking tranquility in nature. Hikes are weather-dependent, and you'll be notified of any cancellations. Open to ages 18+, registration is required.

Goats on the Go!

In our Goats on the Go! program, kids aged 12+ can take a pygmy goat on a walk around the farm. This fun and educational experience provides socialization, exercise, and a chance for kids to learn about animal care. Pre-registration is required.

Morning Stories

For younger listeners, Morning Stories invites kids to enjoy fun children's books in a cozy, farm setting. This relaxing hour fosters imagination and a love of reading. The cost is \$6 per child with a caregiver. Registration is required.

Don't miss out on these exciting programs—register today and enjoy spring at Muscoot Farm!

- Jen Campbell, Educator

HIDDEN POOLS

Vernal pool season is in full swing! These shallow, temporary wetland depressions fill up from rainwater and snow melt in the spring, but often drying up in the summer heat. These bodies of water lack a permanent inlet or outlet and are the breeding grounds for a multitude of amphibians. During early spring there is what is known as the "Big Night" when a mass amount of amphibians migrates to their vernal pool to breed. This event occurs on a wet and warm night, signaling the frogs and salamanders it's go time.

These species must return to the same pool that they were born in to breed. In the vernal pools you can find wood frogs and spring peepers. The wood frogs sound like quacking ducks and have what looks like a

robber's mask on their faces, while the spring peepers are small frogs that camouflage very well and make a high pitched call. The peepers will go silent as you get closer to them. When these frogs mate they lay large jelly-like egg masses that are visible in the pools. Vernal pools are also breeding grounds to marbled, spotted, blue-spotted, and Jefferson salamanders, and serve as fairy shrimp habitat.

Without vernal pools, these species would not have anywhere to breed and reproduce for future generations. It is imperative that vernal pools remain protected for the biodiversity of these amazing species. Join us to learn about vernal pools and hike up to one of our very own here at the farm!

- Sarah Pieratti, Educator



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Muscoot Farm is turning 50 this year! Please consider making a donation towards The Friends of Muscoot Farm to contribute towards the care of our animals, historic preservation, and public programming as we celebrate this big year.

Donations can be made via Venmo @FriendsofMuscoot or our website