

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN INTERN

Hello and welcome to the Visiting Students Program. This is a description of what an intern would typically experience working with the children on the farm.

Your day starts at 5:45 am, if you signed up to be a morning animal feeder. You tip toe through the house to quietly wake up the 3 or 4 children who are animal feeders. They will dress and meet you in the mud room to get boots and jackets on to go outside. You'll be feeding the young stock cows, the pigs, chickens and our most loved horses. This may be an early beginning, but it is the best time of the day. There is a peace and quiet felt on the farm when the sun is just rising, and you are in the warm barn with all those big sleepy looking cows. Morning animal feeding is a special time for the children.

Then there is breakfast with the children, a big steamy bowl of oatmeal and toast. Staff or an intern has the responsibility of head breakfast waiter and with the help of the children sets the tables and prepares the dining hall for the meal. All of the meals we eat at the farm are family style with one or two staff at a table with 4-6 children. All of the food is organic and prepared from scratch.

After breakfast all of us go back to the house for a little organized chaos or what we like to call housekeeping. You'll be in charge of trying to teach a group of children how to sweep, wipe off counters, beat rugs outside, basically cleaning one area with a small group of children so they can get the sense of responsibility for keeping their room and the house clean.

Next we'll have a time that the staff can touch base to sign up for the activities and talk about any issues or concerns that they have with the class or children. You'll have some time here also to rest and prepare for your morning activity.

This morning activity lasts from 10:30 to 12:00 and these are typically cleaning the barn, bread making, gardening, map and compass etc. After your activity you'll have a short time before lunch begins to clean up any loose ends of your activity or to convince the kids that its really time to come down from the hayloft (although they never want to). If you were an animal feeder, then it will be your job to collect the eggs from the chickens with the children, clean them off and put them away.

Eating lunch with the children follows at 12:30. After this you'll have a break. Time for a nap...

Afternoon activities begin promptly at 2:30 and go until 4:00. These activities will be cooking, orienteering, explore, horse back riding, bringing in the cows...etc. There is a little or a lot of prep work that's involved before each of these too.

At the end of the activity all of the children run to the playground (unless its too cold and they have to run inside to the house instead) for a snack and you'll have a little time here to go for a walk or to yourself unless you are an animal feeder. The pm animal feeder will take their small group of children off onto the farm and begin feeding the animals for the second time of the day. Usually it is a different intern feeding the animals than in the morning. They'll check in with the farmer in the barn, before feeding all of those pigs and calves.

Supper begins at 6:00 and usually the children are excited about their day. You may be a waiter- which means that you'll have to come at least 15 minutes early to set up with the children and stay later with them to clean up, or you may have signed up to be a dishwasher in which case you'll stay and run all of those dirty dishes through the good old Hobart and instruct the tiny children where to put all of the clean dishes.

If you aren't signed up for the dishes or waiter than you are free after the meal.

Usually the children gather in the living room after supper all cozy in their pajamas and they'll reflect on the day with their teacher, sing or listen to a story. And you'll listen to how sweet they sound singing together as you go to sleep feeling exhausted yet satisfied.

Our weeks typically begin on Monday morning and we finish up on Friday afternoons after waving good bye to all of the smiling children, a check in meeting and some house keeping. There are a few shortened weeks or extended weeks depending on how far the children are traveling from. The weekends are yours except for a few animal feeding chores.

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.win2pdf.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.