

Dear Members of the Critter Crew
All of us at the Critter Barn are looking forward to the summer months. It's a time when many members of the Critter Crew head to the farm to volunteer. Here is the information you will need to make this a great summer at the Critter Barn.

SOME IMPORTANT INFORMATION



- If you have just registered for Critter Camp in 2009, you will receive this letter too. Once you have taken the Critter Camp class, you will be able to volunteer as well.
- If you took Critter Camp last year, but have NOT returned to the farm to volunteer since you took the class, *you will need to take our class again before volunteering. A discount of 25% is available to those students.*
Contact our secretary to make arrangements to register with that discount. She is available afternoons after 1pm, Monday through Friday. Call us at 616-748-1110 or critterbarn@charter.net
- In 2010, the registration requirements for Critter Camp will change. The age requirement for Critter Camp will be age 9.
Junior Critter Camp will be created for children ages 7 & 8.

VOLUNTEER AT THE CRITTER BARN THIS SUMMER

June thru August | Days/Times Below

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 9:00am to 3:00pm
Suggestion 3 to 4 hour shift for children age 7 & 8
All day / take a lunch for children age 9 and up

Monday through Thursday 5:45pm to 8:00pm

Saturday 8:00am to NOON (may arrive at 9am)

Sunday Must volunteer on Sunday with an adult
1:30pm to 3:30pm.
6:00pm to 8:00pm

CRITTER CREW CLASS

ASSISTANTS

June thru August

Critter Crew members WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED FOR TWO YEARS and are starting their THIRD YEAR, may APPLY to help out with our summer classes: Critter Camp, Animal Adventures and Little Farmers.

If you would like to be an assistant, youi will be required to take a TEACHER ASSISTANT CLASS.

PLEASE NOTE:

We reserve the right to manage the class assistant program. Students must be very familiar with the farm and be a regular volunteer. New students taking classes need the additional assistance that our Critter Crew members can offer so well, and teachers appreciate your support.

However, a few experiences with this opportunity have shown less than favorable results, so for the benefit of everyone, the additional training *IS REQUIRED*. We receive many requests every year, for friends to assist "One Time" while their friends and / or relatives take a class.

Teachers are not in the position to have additional students along, unless the helpers KNOW what they need to do and can be responsible.

We want our Crew to be informed, confident, and helpful.

CLASS ASSISTANT TRAINING (Come to ONE session)

Monday June 22 3:00pm to 4:30pm

Thursday June 25 1:30pm to 3:00pm

Please contact Ms. Mary by phone 616-748-1110 or email critterbarn@charter.net today to take part!

FARM ON THE GO and CRITTERS ON WHEELS

June through October

Critter Crew mambers age 9 and up are welcome to accompany the Traveling Farm. We travel to parks, schools, churches and community events. Currently, if you are interested, you may inquire about the **dates listed on the volunteer form.**

Details will be sent to students who are interested in a particular date. Later we hope to post all traveling farm events descriptions on our KIDS volunteer page under GET INVOLVED.

Transportation to and from events is the responsibility of parents. Often times, parents will arrange car pools for the events. The Critter Barn cannot be responsible for transportation. Plus, with the equipment and animals we take, we don't have room for helpers.

Critter Crew members arrive 45 minutes prior to the event and stay about 30 minutes afterward for setup and take down, they assist with guests during the event, and help with the animals much like we do at the farm. Often, food is provided, but those details will be explained per event.

This opportunity gives your student a wonderful outreach opportunity. We are proud to have Critter Crew members assisting at these public events.

Volunteer Sign-Up

New this year

All volunteers must register 2 days ahead. Example: for Thursday, you must sign up by Tuesday.

Use the new LINK below for Volunteer Sign up, and fill in your information on the form. The Critter Barn will receive an email from you, and then we can respond to you. All the opportunities and dates for traveling farm are displayed and will be updated on a regular basis. Additional traveling farm events are being booked and will be posted as we confirm them.... Currently, we need helpers at Maranatha conference grounds on June 16 and at Douglas Walker park in Byron Center on June 20.

If interested in June 16 or 20, contact us ASAP.

All other dates are posted on our form.

To REGISTER for volunteering.....click on this link:

[volunteer sign up](#)

You can find this link on our website under GET INVOLVED and VOLUNTEER KIDS.

We prefer that you use this method for signing up your volunteer crew member.

Always sign up 2 days in advance so we have time to confirm.
We will confirm your request with an email.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, send an email to us at critterbarn@charter.net
However, if you need to "chat" call the farm at 616-748-1110.
Someone will be in the office during the afternoons, Monday thru Friday.

Volunteering at the Critter Barn is the backbone of our organization.
We are responsible for many children and hope you will help us with the following:

- Always escort your child to sign in at the reception desk
- Sign your child in and sign your child out
- Inform us if a different person is going to "pick-up"
- Send a snack, beverage or lunch as appropriate
- Have your child volunteer a reasonable amount of time, age appropriate/child appropriate length of time
- Let us know if a problem arises or if you have a concern. We supervise, but may miss something.....
- Participate often, but not too often..... even a good thing can be overdone
Students may volunteer a MAX of two times per week
- Allergy medicine? Keep us informed of special accommodations
- Prepare your student with reminders about their contribution and impact on guests and volunteers
- Pick up your child in a timely manner. When we close, the volunteer staff has to leave as well

Looking forward to a great
summer_____

Plan to visit the farm with your family..... let your student take you around again, as many things have changed.

Starting June 24, VISIT OUR NEW HEN HOUSE and plan to purchase fresh eggs from the Critter Barn.

We have been selling our eggs since January, and are proud to offer this product right from the farm!

Help the Critter Barn by purchasing fresh eggs, sell them to your friends! \$2 per dozen.

PLUS Check out our new COINS for CRITTERS Piggy Banks.... see the display at the farm.
Your family can help with the ongoing support that our animals need by saving your small change.

Thank you
Mary Rottschafer, Critter Barn Director