

BLACKWOOD FARM SCHOOL GUIDEBOOK



<u>Blackwood Farm School</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Directory</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Tuition and Important Dates</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Sample Curriculum</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Health & Safety Rules</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Supplies To Bring</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Parent Working Zone</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Waiver & Release</u>	<u>4</u>

Blackwood Farm School

Blackwood Farm School operates weekly in six-week sessions on a seasonal basis during the school calendar. We focus on teaching ages 6-10 detailed skills pertaining to the planting, harvest, and preparation cycle of running a farm. Our lessons cover a broad spectrum of subjects including, the cycles of nature, proper harvesting and washing techniques, small livestock management, composting methods, and more.

Each day will include 4-hours of instruction with a break for lunch. You can drop off your child between and pick them up by 2:00pm.

Directory

Blackwood Address: 27144 Rock Island Rd, Hempstead, TX 77445

Look for the Blackwood sign on the entrance to the property. If the gate is closed, used code 2525 on the keypad.

To report absences, illnesses, or tardies, please contact info@blackwoodland.org

Website: <https://blackwoodland.org/>

Staff Directory

Cath Conlon - Blackwood Founder	cath@blackwoodland.org	832-721-4711
--	--	--------------

R. Aaron Flores - Blackwood Creative	aaron@blackwoodland.org	832-942-2324
---	--	--------------

Tuition and Important Dates

Spring 2023 Dates: [Session 1: March 20 - April 24, 2023](#) (6 weeks)

[Session 2: May 1 - June 5, 2023 \(6 weeks\)](#)

Program cost is \$250 per student for a six-week session. This includes four hours of instruction per day, material costs, and snacks. If you are registering more than one child, you may use code SIBLING20 on the second registration for a 20% discount.

Sample Curriculum

This is an overview of the material we'll be covering each week. This schedule is subject to change based on guest speaker availability and what's growing in the fields.

1. Week One: March 20

- a. Theme: The Four Seasons: Celebrating the First Day of Spring
- b. Read: *Farming* by Gail Gibbons;
The Farm that Feeds Us by Nancy Castaldo
- c. Activities: Flower Dissection, Planting a Raised Bed
- d. Snack: Spring Salad

2. Week Two: March 27

- a. Theme: The Chicken and the Egg: Humane Animal Husbandry
- b. Read: *Chickenology* by Sandri, Guibbilini, Pintonato
- c. Activities: Feed Chickens, Harvest & Wash Eggs
- d. Snack: Farm-Fresh Omelet

3. Week Three: April 3

- a. Theme: Honey Bees: the Role of Pollinators in our Food System
- b. Read: *The Life and Times of the Honey Bee* by Charles Micucci
Buzz, Bee by Jennifer Szymanski
- c. Activities: Hive Observation, Worker Bee Observation, Building a Bee Pond
- d. Snack: Honey Tasting

4. Week Four: April 10

- a. Theme: Soil & Gut Microbiomes
- b. Read: *A Garden in Your Belly* by Masha D'Yans
- c. Activities: Making Compost & Compost Tea, Collect Soil Samples and Observe Soil Microbes in the Microscope
- d. Snack: Fermented Food Sampler

5. Week Five: April 17

- a. Theme: Foraging and Plant Identification
- b. Read: TBD
- c. Activities: Foraging Forest Walk, Nature Sketches
- d. Snack: Foraged Snacks

6. Week Six: April 24

- a. Theme: From Field to Farm Stand: Understanding the Business Side of a Market Garden
- b. Read: *The Farm That Feeds Us*
- c. Activities: Harvest, Process, Bottle, & Sell a Product
- d. Snack: TBD

Schedule & Daily Rhythms

8:45 – 9:00	Drop-off
9:15 – 9:30	Farm Chores / Movement
9:30 – 10:00	Story & Snack Time
10:00 – 11:30	Exploration/Farm Project/Ancestral Skills
11:30 – 12:30	Lunch & Free Play
12:30 – 1:45	Science-based Project
1:45 – 2:00	Clean-up & Closing Circle
2:00 – 2:15	Pick-up

Health & Safety Rules

- Students must wear clothes that can get dirty and boots or sturdy closed toed shoes.
- If your student is feeling unwell, we ask that they stay home until they are feeling better.
- Students are welcome to wear a face mask, but they are not required of students or staff. Most instruction will take place outdoors
- Students are only allowed to use tools once they are instructed on their proper use
- Students are not allowed to climb on or operate any heavy machinery such as our tractors, gators, and other farming vehicles
- Students must remain attentive and engaged while in a lesson and during projects

Supplies To Bring

- Notebook and pen or pencil
- Closed-toe shoes
- Small backpack to carry supplies
- Work or garden gloves
- Hat, rain jacket (if raining), sunscreen
- Refillable water bottle
- Lunch and snacks

Parent Working Zone

Family members and guardians are welcome to stay at the farm during the farm school session. For your convenience, we'll have a designated indoor lounge area for you to use the WiFi and complimentary coffee. If you leave the farm, please be back by 2:00 PM for pick-up.

Questions? Contact info@blackwoodland.org

Waiver & Release



Participant Liability Release and Consent Form

By sending my child to an on-site educational program at Blackwood, my child and I hereby assume the risk(s) of personal injury, accidents and/or illnesses in consideration of, and in recognition of, the inherent risks of bodily injury and harm associated with the use of Blackwood Educational Land Institute facilities and/or participation in Blackwood Educational Land Institute programs, including farming, bees and other livestock, campfires, swimming, and all other typical farm and outdoor activities, and including, but not limited to, those risks arising from accidents, other participants, and forces of nature. I further understand that no warranties or representations of any kind have been made by Blackwood Educational Land Institute, its employees, agents, officials, officers, directors, successors, and/or assigns regarding any of these activities. This release is intended to discharge in advance Blackwood Educational Land Institute, its officials, officers, employees, contractors, volunteers and agents from liability, even though that liability may arise out of perceived negligence on the part of persons mentioned above. It is understood that some recreational and educational activities involve an element of risk or danger of accidents, and knowing those risks, I hereby assume those risks. It is further understood and agreed that this waiver, release and assumption of risk is to be binding on my heirs and assigns.

Parental Consent (Complete if applicant is under 18)

I give consent for my child _____ to participate in all camp activities, and I execute the above liability release on their behalf.

Permission for Treatment

I hereby give permission to the medical personnel selected by Blackwood Educational Land Institute to order X-rays, routine tests, provide treatment and/or arrange necessary related transportation for the above-named child, in case of sudden illness or injury while participating in any camp activity. If I cannot be reached in the event of an emergency, I hereby give permission to the physician selected by Blackwood Educational Land Institute to secure and administer treatment, including hospitalization, for the above-named child. It is understood that Blackwood Educational Land Institute will provide no medical insurance for such treatment, and that the cost thereof will be at my expense.

I have read and understood the foregoing registration liability release and consent forms, and agree to all terms and conditions.

_____ Parent/Guardian Signature	_____ Print Name	_____ Date
_____ Student Signature (18+ Only)	_____ Print Name	_____ Date



BLACKWOOD
EDUCATIONAL LAND INSTITUTE

Media Waiver and Release for Minor Children

I _____ hereby authorize Blackwood Educational Land Institute to publish the photographs taken of me and/or the undersigned minor children, and our names, for use in the Blackwood website and any Blackwood publications. I release Blackwood Educational Land Institute from any expectation of confidentiality for the undersigned minor children and myself and attest that I am the parent or legal guardian of the children listed below and that I have the authority to authorize Blackwood to use their photographs and names. I acknowledge that since participation in publications and websites produced by Blackwood is voluntary, neither the minor children nor I will receive financial compensation. I further agree that participation in any publication and website produced by Blackwood confers no rights of ownership whatsoever. I release Blackwood, its contractors and its employees from liability for any claims by me or any third party in connection with my participation or the participation of the undersigned minor children.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Names and Ages of Minor Children:

Name: _____ Age: _____

Name: _____ Age: _____

Name: _____ Age: _____

Name: _____ Age: _____