

Emmaus Farm

Pre-Trip Group Meeting

It is important that you meet as a group before departing for your trip to the Emmaus Farm for two reasons:

1. There is some essential information to share with all volunteers that will make your trip a lot smoother.
2. Your group will have a better trip if they have all met together as a team knowing that they are going to share this experience.

During your meeting, the most important points to cover about life at the Farm are:

1. **Simplicity!** While at the Farm, we do not wear makeup, shave, or shower daily. We also forgo cell phones, watches, and other electronics and time-keeping devices. Overall, this is so we can break down barriers, be fully authentic with one another, and be fully present in our community of service. The reasons for this simplistic way of living will be discussed in more detail upon arrival to the Farm. The Farm receives NO cell service. We have a land line that can be used for emergencies, but students should be prepared not to use their cell phones at all during the week.
2. **Packing!** Please review the packing list as a group—what to pack as well as what not to pack. If students would like to bring iPods, cell phones, or other electronics for their trip to and from the Farm, they can, but those devices will not be used for the duration of their stay on the Farm. This is also a great opportunity for people to share (ex. If someone doesn't have a sleeping bag that would like to bring one, maybe someone else in the group has an extra).
3. **Community!** We are part of a community on and off the Farm during your week with us. It is important that the group knows each other and is comfortable with each other. Try playing some get-to-know-you games, or have the group pair off with someone they don't know very well to have a conversation, and do that a few times to give different pairs of people a chance to talk. If you can schedule a community day before the trip, like a picnic, a cookout, pool party, movie night, etc. that would be even better—the more opportunity for the group to get to know each other, the better!
4. **Volunteer Contract!** Please review the volunteer contract with the group so that everyone is aware of the expectations during their week at the Farm. This is a great opportunity for the group to discuss their expectations of each other and sign the contract together.
5. **Website!** Make sure your student look at the *Volunteer Week* page of our website: www.emmausfarm.org/volunteer-week This is where they can find the forms they need, packing list, and an overview of their week.
6. **Questions or concerns?** Give us a call! We'd be happy to talk with you.