



Hello from Thiessen Orchards!

Enclosed please find information regarding our educational orchard tours. Please review it carefully. *If you are bringing more than one group, please photocopy the form and submit one for each group requesting a tour.*

Our orchard tours are very popular and our time slots fill quickly! Please ensure there are no conflicts with other activities (e.g. other class trips, school pictures or other events) on the date you are requesting, as an alternate tour date may not always be possible.

Please visit our website for up the most up to date tour time availability.

<http://www.thiessenorchards.com/availabletourdates2011.asp>

We look forward to having you visit our farm.

Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Thiessen Orchards Tours

Apple Hot Line – Toll Free:

1-877-4PICKING

(1-877-474-2546)

Fax: (519) 326-2089

www.ThiessenOrchards.com

Email andrew@thiessenorchards.com

Thiessen Orchards Ltd.

400 Talbot Road East, Leamington, ON N8H 3V6

Toll Free (877) 4PICKING Tel. (519) 326-5282 Fax. (519) 326-2089

2011 SCHOOL GROUP INVITATION & RATES

Thiessen Orchards would like to invite your School Group for an “*Educational Apple Orchard Tour*”. Experiences at Thiessen’s will help support the learning expectations of the Ministry of Education and training. The children’s time at our orchard will give them background of oral communication, writing, number sense, numeration, measurement, patterning, data management and other cross curricular connections in science and technology.

This fall we are accepting children from Junior K to Grade 6. Tours will be on Wednesdays to Fridays beginning Wednesday September 14 through Friday October 14, 2011. We are located at 400 Talbot Road East (also 400 County Road 34 East), two miles east of Leamington on the South (right) side of the road.

The Tour

The “*Educational Apple Orchard Tour*” includes a wagon ride through the orchard along with the above mentioned educational talk. Tour guides will show students different apple varieties, various production methods, harvesting procedures, irrigation, orchard maintenance, etc. If you would like special material covered during the tour, please fax your material to us along with your request form. **All students on the tour will pick a 3 lb bag of delicious tree ripened apples to take home which is included in their tour price. Adults/chaperons will receive a 10 lb bag of apples with their tour price.**

The Facilities

Feel free to let the children burn off some energy on the slide and monkey bars in our straw filled barn, our hay castle, on the swings or in the open grassy area, ideal for games, etc. There is also a large picnic area with plenty of tables if you choose to stay for lunch. Portable toilets and a washbasin are available. If the children have any allergies to straw or other farm grasses and weeds, please ensure that everyone is aware of this component of the farm. Remember, this is a working farm and teachers should make sure special attention is made to the fact that farm equipment and vehicles are moving about the property.

The Kountry Kitchen

The Kountry Kitchen offers a variety of hot and cold food, made fresh daily for your group. Please call us in advance if you wish to order large quantities of food for your group. Some food items available are Sausage on a Bun, Hot Dogs, Caramel Apples, Chips, Apple Fritters, Pop/Water, Coffee, Cider, Assorted Candy.

Group Lunch: 1 Hot Dog, 1 Bag Chips, 1 Drink (cider/pop/water) for \$6.00 per person (tax included). If you would like to order the Group Lunch, please contact us a minimum of one business day prior to your visit.

Fees

To ensure a full tour, groups should arrive 10 minutes early to get the full tour. **An \$8.00 fee is applicable to all students and adults/chaperons on the tour (teachers are free of charge) and is payable to your tour guide upon arrival.** An invoice will be issued as a receipt for your school. There is a minimum \$80.00 fee per group. **All tour prices include applicable taxes.** To facilitate ease of payment we require one cheque or one credit card payment from the person in charge of the entire group. **Reminder: All students on the tour will pick a 3 lb bag of delicious tree ripened apples to take home which is included in their tour price. All adults/chaperons will receive a 10 lb bag of apples with their tour price. NOTE: We normally charge \$9.00 for 10 lbs of apples and believe that the adult/chaperon is compensated fairly for their \$8.00 fee for the tour.**

Tour Starting Times

10:15 am

11:30 am

Booking Your Tour

Please complete the request form included in this package and fax it to 519-326-2089. Photocopy the form and submit one for each group requesting a tour if you are bringing more than one group. We will confirm your request via fax or phone within 24 business hours of receipt. If you have any questions please call us at your convenience. Remember to book early, as time slots are filled quickly.

Looking forward to seeing you this fall!

Thiessen Orchards

Important Notes to Remember:

- **On the Farm**

The tour is approximately 1 hour long. **Please arrive 10 minutes early to organize the group.** We want you to enjoy your entire scheduled tour time. Tours are generally sold out, and if you are late we may have to shorten your tour due to staff and time limitations.

- **Safety**

Safety of your group is of the utmost importance to us. This is a working farm and everyone needs to know this. Bees and wasps are present on the farm, and we have a first aid kit available in the Kountry Kitchen. Persons with special needs for this situation should be taken care of prior to arrival to the farm (e.g. bee venom shots, EpiPens, antihistamines). Also, the barn contains straw and the farm has natural weeds, of which some children, chaperones, and teachers with allergies need to be made aware prior to their arrival.

- **Dress**

Please dress according to the country weather and wear sturdy shoes or boots, warm coats, hoods, gloves, hats, mittens, etc. Remember, most of your tour will be spent outdoors.

- **Rain**

If the weather is questionable on the day of your tour, please call Thiessen Orchards for our exact weather conditions, as weather can vary from area to area. Should your tour have to be cancelled, we will make every effort to reschedule, providing there is an acceptable opening.

- **Group Size**

Recommended group size is approximately 40 participants per time slot for ease of scheduling and wagon seating accommodation, including adults and children. Please request two time slots if necessary. Under certain circumstances we may be able to accommodate up to 80 participants per hour. Please call in to request this option. Smaller groups may be combined with other groups of similar age if necessary.

- **Lunch/Snack**

Everyone is welcome to eat a lunch or snack while on the farm. The Kountry Kitchen is available with items as well. Outdoor seating in the picnic table area is also available.

- **Payment**

Cheque or Credit Card only PLEASE! Payment is due on the day of the tour and a single payment prior to the tour from the group leader is appreciated.

- **Parking**

Bus parking is available in front of the greenhouse buildings as well as a parking lot beside the gray barn. The tour will begin at the base of the hill approaching the gray barn and the haymow at your scheduled start time.