

Second Grade

Elkus ranch program staff will meet your students at the fire circle to review a few rules before beginning your program. Students will be encouraged to observe carefully and ask questions as they visit the ranch. If you provide our staff with a copy of your KWL activity or let us know in advance if you have specific instructional goals or objectives for your visit, our staff will be happy to address them during the program. Large groups will be divided by classroom for the program but all groups will visit the same areas, in varying order.

Greenhouse and Gardens: The greenhouse provides an opportunity for children to learn about plant life cycles from seed to fruit and/or flower. We will discuss the conditions that will best support germination, growth and development in the greenhouse, lath house and gardens. We will compare the kinds of plants that will grow well outside in our mild coastal climate vs. those that will do best in the warmer environment of the greenhouse. As students transplant a seedling to grow at home they will be encouraged to find the seed that provided food for the early growth of the plant, identify the seed coat and roots, and will receive instructions about the best environment to plant their seedling at home.



Animals: Elkus Ranch raises chickens, goats, and sheep. We also have rabbits, donkeys, horses, pigs and a llama. During their visit children will have the opportunity to brush the goats and donkeys, visit the chickens, and feed the sheep. With each animal encounter, program staff will point out the similarities and differences in family groups as well as breeds and genders. During the spring we often have lambs and goat kids which make for great opportunities to discuss life cycles and animal

reproduction.

Upper Barn: The upper barn houses our flock of sheep and it is here where we demonstrate the process of converting raw wool into clothing. The entire process of shearing, washing, carding, spinning, dyeing and weaving is illustrated with both historic and modern tools. Students will have the opportunity to think about the daily lives of people several generations ago who may have been involved in these processes to produce their clothing fiber.



Lower Barn: This barn is full of wonderful artifacts to explore including bones and skulls, hides, taxidermy mounts, feathers, and nests from domestic and wild animals. Students will be introduced to the terms *predator* and *prey* and will learn how the basic needs of both wild and domestic animals are met.

Recycling and Stewardship: By the end of the tour children are ready for lunch. After learning how to save water and paper while washing their hands, the group heads to the picnic area for the last part of their tour. Here we will discuss their role in keeping our environment healthy by reducing the amount of trash that heads to our landfills by sorting the trash from their lunch into compost, recycle and trash bins. We will also provide models of reusable items that can be used for a waste free lunch. Our program concludes here and we encourage teachers to complete the last column of the KWL activity to help children verbalize what they have learned. Your students are welcome to write to us to share a special memory when they return to school. We are always happy to provide answers to follow up questions too.