

# Mari's Gardens Educational Tours

**Educational Tours** - \$6 per student (25 students max per group) \$6 per teacher, \$6 per chaperone (Tours are normally 1 Hour, we may go over slightly at times due to weather, questions and student behavior).

We welcome our school students, faculty and chaperones on guided tours through our farm and its operations. Your guide will give the students an introduction to Mari's Gardens history and this is what you can expect while on the tour.

- Understanding What is Aquaponics and Hydroponics
- What sustainability "means" and how it relates to our farming practices
- STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, how it is applied in everyday Aquaponics and farming
- Using Hawaii's Core Standards K-12, Benchmarks, and Learning Goals
- Weather and it's affects to our agriculture and fish
- Hands-On activities...activities may vary depending on grade requirements and standards
- Feeding of farm animals
- Farm to table...Where does my food come from
- Learn the importance of supporting local farmers and increasing food security in Hawaii.
- Tour topics may vary depending on the age level and student interest, as well as tour guide's teachable moments.

## Hands-On Activity

We provide a hands on learning activity for students, determined by grade level.

Planting Activity: This is a great activity for students in K-6 as it includes a seed to table learning experience. Students can see the growth cycle of a lettuce plant by starting their very own lettuce seedling and taking it back to the classroom. We encourage teachers to make this a part of their lesson plan as it ensures maximum student participation. Resources can be provided to help teachers along with this activity. **As part of our message to promote sustainable agriculture teachers are also encouraged to bring recycled milk cartons, rinsed out, make a small hole on the bottom of the carton and students name with sharpie prior to coming or any vessel similar to use as "green" planters, i.e. tofu container.**

Mari's Gardens will provide the rest of the materials needed for this planting activity. We will provide the grow media, seeds and starter plants for all their cartons.

## Tour Guidelines

To ensure that your visit to Mari's Gardens is both educational and safe, please read all of our tour guidelines. We are a fully functioning agriculture nursery, farm and landscaping business. This is our livelihood and we ask that you respect the property and all the things in it so others can enjoy it as we hope you will.

- We require a minimum of 15 students. The maximum number of students at one tour time is 75. We can be flexible depending on your situation, please inquire upon booking.
- We ask that all tour groups please **BE ON TIME**. If there is an emergency and you anticipate not being able to arrive at your scheduled tour time, please call 808-625-2800 and communicate your situation to our staff so we can assist you.
- We ask that your faculty and chaperones **KEEP OUR GROUP TOGETHER**. This will ensure that your students get all the information at once and no one gets left behind or hurt.
- We ask that faculty and chaperones help control students and their behaviors.
- Please NO KICKING OF ROCKS! Please ask your students to be respectful of the farm and all of the surroundings plants and materials.
- Our nursery has many plants, potteries, gravel and statues. We ask that none of them be pulled, ripped, thrown or damaged while on your tour. We reserve the right to ask you to escort any student that is not being respectful out of the farm/nursery until the tour is finished.
- Our fish are very sensitive and we ask that they are not harmed or disturbed in any way.
- We are a food safety certified farm and ask that there be **NO TOUCHING OF ANY PRODUCE** while on the tour.
- We require all tour guests wear covered shoes.
- No gum, candy or food items are allowed while on the tours.
- Please clean your areas after you are done with your lunch and observe the recycled bins.
- Suggested items to bring: **Bottled Water**, Umbrella, Covered Shoes, and Hat & Sunglasses.

## Cancellation Policy

All tours and guides are weather permitting. The Farm is located in a "passing shower" area of Mililani and for the safety of all our guests, tours are subject to cancellation if we are faced with unsafe weather conditions.

We require 7 days' notice to cancel tours without a charge. This notice will allow us to reopen the dates for others. A confirmation call will be given to confirm the cancelled date and tour.

*"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn."*  
– Benjamin Franklin