



## Frequently Asked Questions

March 13 & 14, 2014

Harwood Arena at Kean University

### **Do you need to register in advance?**

Definitely! The field trips always fill to capacity early and we cannot accommodate walk-ins.

### **How do I register?**

Download the registration form from the GreenFest website ([www.gardenstategreenfest.com](http://www.gardenstategreenfest.com)). You may also email ([gecko@gardenstategreenfest.com](mailto:gecko@gardenstategreenfest.com)) or call us (908.268.4420) to request a form.

### **Can children who are home schooled attend/participate?**

Absolutely! However you must still pre-register even if you are small in number.

### **How long is the field trip?**

From three to 5 hours depending on how long you can stay. Our goal is for students to participate in at least two small group workshops, a large group presentation and spend time visiting the other booths and exhibits – which takes about three hours. If a school can stay longer we will provide space for lunch to be eaten and add on workshops as available.

### **What are the times of the field trip?**

Our day runs from 9:30am to 3pm. Because of the large number of students we stagger arrivals from 9:30am to 10:30am. You will be assigned an arrival based on information provided in your registration.

### **Is there a fee?**

No! We are proud to say that from our very first year in 2008 the GECKO Field Trips have been sponsored by The Star-Ledger and others. Most notably the many individuals and organizations who donate their time to present workshops.

### **What age groups/grades should attend?**

We have age appropriate activities for youth from 1<sup>st</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup>. Students are grouped by age/grade. In some cases a 10<sup>th</sup> grade group will attend a similarly titled presentation as a 4<sup>th</sup> grade group but the content will have been significantly adjusted. Some topics, such as climate change or factory farming, are presented only to older students.

High School students are strongly encouraged to attend. Some of the most exciting activities of the day are geared towards them. There is always a session on a future in the green economy which covers college majors as well as careers.

**How many students can a school bring? How many adults?**

We have a loose maximum of 200 students per school. We have made exceptions so if you have a larger group please let us know your situation. You must bring one adult for every 5 students in 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. High Schools must bring one adult for every 15 students.

**How many people will be at the event?**

We expect about 800 students and another 400 adults to attend each day.

**What sorts of things will the students learn about?**

Over the past six years we have presented workshops on composting, vermicomposting, organic gardening, benefits of local vs organic, school gardens, GMOs, the 4 Rs (refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle), trash audits, upcycling, energy sources, alternative energy, pollution, wildlife, wildlife rehabilitation and conservation, sustainability, water conservation, climate change, ocean and river protection, careers in the green economy, activism, and much, much more.

**Do we arrive when we want and move about as we choose?**

No. We provide a schedule of activities carefully selected for your students. It is very important to arrive on time as workshops cannot be delayed for late arriving groups. Free time is built in to your schedule for lunch and visiting the many other booths and exhibits at GreenFest.

**Will there be food for purchase?**

About six weeks before your field trip you will receive information on box lunches you may pre-purchase. It is not required. At this time we are unsure if we will have a concessionaire.

**Should the students bring money?**

It is not necessary to bring any money but there will be many opportunities to purchase eco-friendly items such as t-shirts, books, soaps, candles, food, etc.

**I don't see my question answered here!**

No problem. You can e-mail us at [gecko@gardenstategreenfest.com](mailto:gecko@gardenstategreenfest.com) or call 908.268.4420.