



Frequently Asked Questions

What kinds of fields trips do you go on?

The main feature of our field trips is personal connection. We prioritize going places where there is someone to converse with or respond to questions. One example: we met with a falconer and learned about how she got into falconry while watching her handle her hawk. We prioritize learning in an engaging way. An extensive list of field trips we've taken are listed on our website under "What We Offer."

What's on the schedule for next year?

Thus far, we've planned trips based on the interests of the members and we hope new members feel free to continue in this spirit. This freedom to follow interests is part of the appeal of what we do, but it is also what makes it hard to say, with 100% certainty, what is on the schedule for next year. That said, a few things in the works:

- A tour of a sustainable woman-owned oyster agribusiness
- A beehive tour with an experienced bee keeper
- A behind-the-scenes tour of the Rare Books Department at the Free Library of Philadelphia
- A 3D printing workshop
- A composting workshop

What does my membership fee cover?

The fee covers:

- A minimum of 6 field trips and/or workshops organized by The Field Co-op
- A minimum of 2 social gatherings organized by The Field Co-op
- Access to the field trips that co-op members plan (approx. 3 - 4 per month)
- Being part of a “critical mass” of families which not only makes group discounts to cultural events possible, but also provides unique access to tours and learning experiences
- Access to the members-only website with features such as forums, a classifieds section, a directory, a weekly newsletter, and a calendar.
- Priority registration for our workshops.

The Field Co-op aims to keep field trips low cost or no added cost. Since our founding, over half of the field trips each year have not had an added cost. They were “free” to members. The fee for other trips ranged between \$5 and \$15 per participant.

By having a group with a fee and organizational structure that encourages participation, as well as a steady stream of interesting field trips to take together, we hope to keep building and sustaining a structure that supports relationships and learning.

Are you only about field trips or do you offer something more?

We created this co-op largely for our children to enjoy a sense of community and regular contact with adults and children that they know. It is also a wonderfully supportive parent community. The Field Co-op is committed to help create and sustain these connections in a stable, ongoing way. Field trips are one way we do this; however, additional ways include: social gatherings, hikes, workshops, volunteering,

etc. We flourish due to the individual ideas and creativity of our group members and always welcome ideas for gatherings, classes, etc. beyond our regular field trips.

I'm in (Center City OR Delaware County OR Chester County), and I just want to get a sense of where you meet so I'm not overcommitting to long drives. Can you tell me more?

Almost all our field trips thus far have been between 5 and 40 minutes of Philadelphia. A handful of our current members are in Delaware, Chester, and Philadelphia County.

There are many other groups that have free meet-ups on a weekly basis. How are you different?

We created this group in the fall of 2021 to meet our collective longing to get out into our community more regularly. We were a group of 2, then 3, then 4 ... and now over 20 families are making a concerted effort to create unique field trips to enjoy together. While meet-ups are appealing (and something we also do), we see our field trips as the backbone of our organization and an integral part of the educational path we're on with our families. Encountering people and places in our community together and asking questions helps us learn and links us to each other and our surroundings. It's also great to have a standing commitment to adventure and exploration built into our schedules.

What days do the events occur? I have a standing weekly commitment and wouldn't want there to be an ongoing conflict.

Thus far, we've largely gone on field trips on Fridays (mid-morning) because this day seems to be the most open for the most families; however, families are free to plan events on whatever days that work best for them. Because a location may only be available for a visit on a Wednesday or Thursday, there is some natural variability to our schedule. Our workshops typically have been on Monday or Friday afternoons in Swarthmore.