



Farm to School Challenge Ideas and Guidelines

Help promote Farm to School and enter to win prizes from the National Farm to School Network. Earn bonus points for your Farm-to-School Challenge application as well! All you need to do is add your event at the site:

<http://www.farmtoschoolmonth.org/send-in-your-event/?success=1> or Take the Farm to School Counts Pledge at:
<http://www.farmtoschoolmonth.org/farm-to-school-counts-pledge/>

Principals

- Hold a special day or event that features a food producer or local chef and talk with students and faculty about local food.
- Encourage the PTA and teachers to host a Farm-to-School activity or classroom lesson.
 - Example: Have a potluck for the staff using local foods and invite a local chef to make dessert.

Teachers

- Invite a food producer, local chef, or expert from the community to come talk to your class about the food system.
- Hold a “Farm to School Friday” activity during October.
- Assign a class project to search the media for news related to Farm to School.
- Have your students identify a favorite food and try to figure out how far they would have to go to get the ingredients.
- Example: Invite a local farmer to your classroom to do a presentation about their farm. (Need help finding a farmer? Call us!)
- Work with a local farmer to hold a “Kid’s Farmer’s Market” where the students get play money to buy local produce.

Students

- Poll your fellow students on what healthy local foods they would like to see served at lunch.
- Host a taste test with local product to see what is the most popular.
- Make a collage, story, or poem about what Farm to School means to you.
- See if you can tour the school kitchen and learn about the school food challenges.
- Example: Draw a cartoon clip to put into the school newsletter that uses Farm to School themes.

Food Service Staff

- Have a “Local Food Lunch”.
- Try a “Fish Friday” or “Wild and Local Wednesday.”
- Visit a classroom to talk about food safety, school nutrition, or challenges for serving local food.
- Poll the students about what they like and don’t like in the school lunch.

- Example: Visit the science classes and discuss the possibility of creating a school garden.

Food Producer, Distributor, Chef, or Processor

- Visit a school or class and talk about what you do in the food system.
- Bring in a sample of food for students to try.
- Team up with the food service to see if you can feature something local.
- Example: As a Distributor you could bring a variety of products to show what's available to restaurants and discuss the important role you play in getting the food from the farm to the end user.

Community Member, PTA, Local Food Advocate

- Help facilitate any of the above activities.
- Sponsor or link up with a local school to feature a Farm to School theme project.
- Example: As a member of the PTA you might sponsor a class snack time using local foods.

People to Involve

- Ag. in the Classroom-Joni Scharfenberg, jonisc@gmail.com
- Alaska FFA:
 - Russell Walter, State Advisor: rhwalter@alaska.edu 907-746-9495
 - Amy Harmon, 907-982-2310
 - Rayne Reynolds, 907-953-0093
- Pro-Start- Amber Zerbe, 907-223-7138, azerbe@alaskacharr.com
- Alaska 4-H- <http://www.alaska4h.org/index.html> to find the local chapter representative in your area.

Media Suggestions

- Contact your local newspaper.
- Write, draw, or color something for your school newsletter.
- Ask your school to put your activity on Facebook, put on your wall, or post it on the Alaska farm to school facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/AlaskaFarmToSchool>

Additional Opportunity

- Here's something we can all sink our teeth into ~ National Food Day on October 24th! For Food Day, there is an excellent website resource for posters, PSA's, videos, webinars, etc. that you are welcome to use in planning your activities.

Prizes



**** A sincere thank you goes out to the Obesity Prevention and Control Program, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services for funding all the prizes!**

Prizes include indoor growing stations, gift cards to local greenhouse suppliers, books, gift packages with gardening supplies, kitchen utensils, seedling heat mats and more!

Score Sheet

*** Bonus Points:**

If your activity takes place during the month of October you will automatically get **10 extra points**. For those of you who have projects already planned for dates outside of October...don't worry. Just present your project during the month of October to help spread awareness of how and why it made a difference with your group.

1. Creativity of project: 30 points

How does your project incorporate ideas about farm to school and engage kids in understanding the food system better?

2. Variety of involvement: 30 points

There are many different people that have something to contribute to farm to school projects. Try getting involvement from some non-traditional partners like a distributor or processor. Do you have community members that are good at growing things, hunting, or fishing? How can school food service be involved?

3. Percent of enrolled students reached:

Doing an activity in your classroom is fun and effective for your students, but can you push it even farther out into the rest of the school? Can you get your two neighboring classrooms to participate? Or even more, can you set up a school assembly to reach the entire student body?? There are several ways to earn points in this category:

- Reach three total classrooms: 10 points
- Reach 25% of the student body: 15 points
- Reach 50 % of the student body: 20 points
- Reach 75% or more of the student body: 30 points

4. Media plan: 20 points

What are your plans to share your project success with a wider audience? Teaching kids about food and learning about the local food system are gaining attention; share your story with a wider audience using Facebook, Twitter, etc. as a resource!

Any questions or concerns can be directed to:

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