



THE URBAN FARM AT STAPLETON

Mission, Goals, and Objectives

The *mission* of The Urban Farm (TUF) is to teach agricultural and environmental education to urban children, youth, and their families. TUF operates year-round. Classes, workshops, and field trips are typically held Monday through Saturday. The Farm is open to the public Saturday mornings from 10:00 a.m. til 1:00 p.m. and at additional times as arranged. A \$5.00 donation is greatly appreciated. Special community and fundraising events, clinics, horse shows, dog shows and trials, and other public activities are held throughout the year. TUF operates in part with grants and corporate contributions. Individual donations, and revenues earned from classes, workshops, and events.

Program Description

TUF began twelve years ago as a summer riding camp. Since that time, it has grown into a year-round organization serving approximately 3000 children annually. TUF features many programs. Among them are:

TUF 4-H While Denver has offered a 4-H program for many years that focuses on urban-specific projects, city kids did not have the opportunity to participate in those livestock projects that have been a part of 4-H for more than 100 years. Working with Colorado State University Extension Office and Adams County 4-H, TUF has been able to make it possible for nearly 356 urban children this year to take on a goat, sheep, poultry, horse, swine, or other livestock project.

Embracing Horses TUF's founding program provides multi-level horsemanship education for children 5 to 18 years of age. Nearly 400 children and youth participate in Embracing Horses classes each year. The vast majority of kids stay with the program for a year or more.

TUF Kids Up to 25 kids each year are invited to become a TUF Kid. The young people serve as ambassadors for The Urban Farm and spend as many as ten hours each week involved in 4H, Embracing Horses, doing chores, helping with community outreach and assisting in the afterschool and summer programs.

Storybook Farm SBF is The Farm's emerging literacy program for preschool and kindergarten children that was developed in conjunction with Denver Public School district's early childhood education standards for literacy, math, and science. The students participating in Storybook Farm are among Denver's most academically at-risk children.

The Children's Garden The Children's Garden is designed to give kids an understanding of how plants grow and where food comes from. Divided into a series of 21 study gardens, the gardens teach, inspire, and delight children. The Children's Garden is also the venue for children to study weather, water dynamics, bird habitats and organic insect control.

Farm Hands A strong underlying principle of TUF is to encourage a good work ethic among youth. Youngsters in all of the programs participate in farm work and many do work exchange for other privileges and opportunities at TUF. Farm hands is a growing program in which kids learn to do a good job. Working under the supervision of TUF mentors, these youth participate in a weekly half-day program in which they learn skills and work habits. Project examples include learning to clean the animal enclosures, building farm structures, repairing fences, and organic gardening.

Field Trips The Urban Farm offers guided field trips for schools, community groups, parent groups, and other organizations that serve urban children and youth. Field trip options include a standard field trip or a customized experience that can be tailored to the needs of the visiting group.

Children from all sectors of the metro area participate in programs, but TUF focuses its outreach to those children and families who live in neighborhoods within close proximity to Stapleton, including Northeast Park Hill, North Park Hill, East Montclair, Montbello, and North Aurora. Of the 2,600 children served by TUF last year, approximately 38% were Hispanic, 35% were African-American, and 27% were Caucasian. Many of the participating schools were low-performing schools and more than 65% of the students qualified for free and reduced lunches.

For more information or to find out how you can help The Urban Farm visit our web site at www.theurbanfarm.org or contact Donna Garnett, Executive Director at donna@theurbanfarm.org.