

PLASTIC-FREE PLEDGE



The HEAL Project strives to create a Zero Waste camp program by pledging to reduce our consumption of single-use plastics.

Plastics are increasingly detrimental to our environment, human health and the economy. Not only do plastics litter our water and local ecosystems, but they also break down into microplastics that release toxic chemicals and enter our food chain. Most plastics do not biodegrade, and a low percentage are able to be recycled. Single-use plastics are particularly harmful due to their short term of use, long life span and high carbon footprint.

The HEAL Project has an established Leave No Trace Trash Policy that has reduced our use of plastic at The San Mateo County School Farm (SMCSF). Our Leave No Trace Trash Policy means that all farm guests are responsible for packing their own trash in and out of the facility. This practice provokes campers to notice the amount of waste they might produce on a daily basis. Our Leave No Trace Trash Policy has also been effective in reducing the amount of waste collected at the farm as well as in promoting Zero Waste lunches in San Mateo County schools.

As a leader in food systems education, we pledge to take these additional steps to ensure the reduction of our single-use plastic consumption:

- Purchase consciously to reduce our consumption of single-use plastics, including: buying in bulk, purchasing products in reusable or recyclable materials when available and restricting purchases of common single-use craft plastics (glitter, beads, plastic straws, plastic-stemmed q-tips, etc.)
- Use compostable or reusable serving containers (bowls, plates, forks, spoons, cups)
- Collect and sort compostable food items for use in our onsite composting systems
- Educate our campers on why plastic reduction is essential for the health of our planet
- Provide educational materials to camp guardians/parents on how to pack Zero Waste lunches
- Promote plastic-free July campaigns as part of our online marketing
- Share our pledge with the community and other local camp providers to spread the word