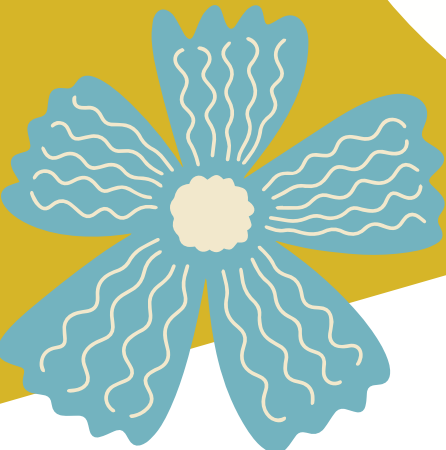




PARENT ORIENTATION HANDBOOK 2025

Welcome to Wild Wander Forest School—this handbook is your guide to our philosophy, daily rhythms, policies, and the shared values that shape our outdoor learning community.

www.wildwanderforestschool.com



WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone/Text Business Line: [\(760\) 230-3801](tel:7602303801)

Email for Enrollment and Administrative Questions: admin@wildwanderforestschool.com

Preschool Teachers Email: forestprek@wildwanderforestschool.com

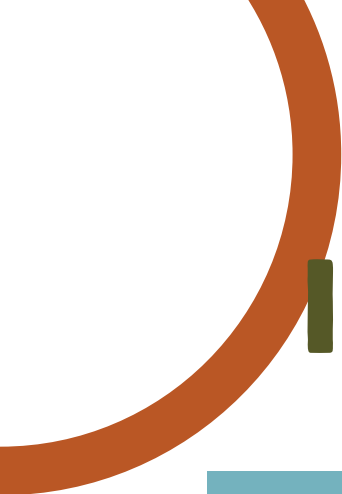
Kinder Teachers Email: forestkinder@wildwanderforestschool.com

Procare:



PLEASE NOTE

While we're in the field with students, we do not answer the business line in real time. However, all voicemails, text messages, and Procare messages are instantly transcribed and delivered to our teachers' phones. This allows us to quickly respond to urgent situations while remaining fully present with the children.



INTRODUCTION



MISSION & PHILOSOPHY

ENROLLMENT OFFERINGS

ADMINISTRATION & STAFFING

HEALTH & SAFETY

PHOTO RELEASE



MISSION & PHILOSOPHY

OUR MISSION

Wild Wander Forest School is committed to nurturing a lifelong love of learning through immersive, nature-based early education. We honor each child's curiosity while fostering intellectual growth, emotional resilience, and a deep, respectful connection to the natural world around them.



**"CHILDREN DESERVE
CLASSROOMS WITH NO
CEILINGS, NO WALLS—
ONLY POSSIBILITIES."**

OUR PHILOSOPHY

Children are naturally curious and intrinsically motivated to learn. We believe the best environment for early education is the outdoors—where nature itself becomes a teacher. Our approach centers on place-based learning, where educators guide rich discussions, support child-led inquiry, and nurture emerging skills in literacy, science, math, and emotional regulation. Through exploration and play, children build lasting friendships and a deep respect for the world around them.

WHILE ATTENDING WILD WANDER FOREST SCHOOL, YOUR CHILD WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO:

- Experience hands-on, place-based learning rooted in their natural surroundings
- Develop a deep sense of environmental stewardship
- Explore letters and sounds through songs, storytelling, modeled writing, and playful literacy games
- Build foundational number sense and discover the beauty of sequence and patterns
- Tune into nature—listening to the wind, the birds, and the world around them
- Connect ancient stories to the rhythms and wisdom of the natural world
- Identify and appreciate native plants and animals
- Practice foundational primitive skills
- Engage in scientific thinking through observation, questioning, and experimentation
- Learn to navigate using maps and a compass
- Become familiar with the ecology of their local landscape
- Strengthen coordination, balance, and movement through active play
- Build social-emotional skills and grow as cooperative, compassionate community members
- Explore “bird language”—the art of interpreting animal calls and movement
- And of course... dance, get muddy, climb trees, and celebrate the wild joy of childhood





OUR CURRICULUM

CURRICULUM & KINDERGARTEN READINESS:

Students engage in hands-on, experiential learning while building a strong foundation in core areas like math, language, literacy, science, and social-emotional development. Through daily exploration in the outdoors, they are introduced to school readiness standards for math, language, literacy, science, and social and emotional well-being in meaningful, integrated ways—with an emphasis on understanding “Big Ideas” through real-world connections and child-led discovery outdoors.



DAILY RYTHYM

FOREST PRE-K

8:10AM - 8:30AM	Drop-off & Morning Activities
8:30AM - 8:50AM	Morning Meeting
8:55AM - 9:10AM	Skills Play
9:20AM - 10:00AM	Snack & Exploration
10:05AM - 10:25AM	Numeracy Play
10:30AM - 11:20AM	Exploration & Discovery
11:20AM - 11:55AM	Lunch
11:55AM - 12:10PM	Closing Circle & Pick-up



FOREST KINDER

8:10AM - 8:30AM	Drop-off & Morning Activities
8:30AM - 8:50AM	Morning Meeting
8:55AM - 9:20AM	Literacy Skills Practice
9:25AM - 10:00AM	Snack & Exploration
10:05AM - 10:25AM	Numeracy Skills Practice
10:30AM - 10:50AM	Exploration & Discovery
10:50AM - 11:20AM	Observations (Science & Social Studies)
11:20AM - 11:55AM	Lunch
11:55AM - 12:10PM	Closing Circle & Pick-up



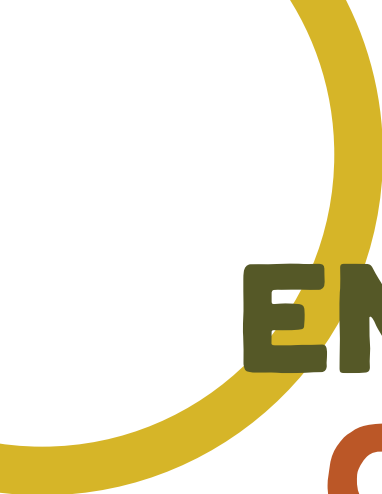
ADMINISTRATION & STAFFING

Staffing per Class: 1 Lead Teacher and 1 Co-Teacher

Teacher to Student Ratio: 1:6 Forest PreK Class // 1:8 or less Forest Kinder Class



At Wild Wander Forest School, we carefully screen and hire educators with strong backgrounds in Early Childhood Development and teaching credentials. All staff are Livescan background checked and certified in CPR and First Aid. Beyond qualifications, our teachers embody a shared philosophy of child-led, nature-based learning. They bring a deep love for the outdoors, knowledge of local ecosystems, and a genuine passion for guiding children through joyful, meaningful experiences in the natural world.



ENROLLMENT OFFERINGS

FALL 12-WEEK SESSION

September 3rd-November 22nd

Fall Holidays observed::

Labor Day

Indigenous Peoples Day

Veterans Day

WINTER 12-WEEK SESSION

December 2nd - March 7th

Winter Holidays observed::

New Year's Day

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Presidents Days - Lincoln and Washington.

SPRING 12-WEEK SESSION

March 10th - June 6th

Spring Holidays observed::

Memorial Day

SUMMER WEEK LONG SESSIONS

June through August





RULES & POLICIES

ENROLLMENT AGREEMENT:

Wild Wander Forest School follows a traditional school year calendar, running from September through June with a summer break. Each fall marks the beginning of a new academic year. Regardless of enrollment date, all students are subject to updated policies as they are implemented. Families must re-enroll each year to maintain their spot, and currently enrolled students are given priority registration before we open enrollment to those on our wait-list.

SCHEDULING:

Wild Wander Forest School offers both full-week and partial-week programming for our early childhood classes. Full-week programs run Monday through Friday, while partial-week options include Monday/Wednesday/Friday, Monday/Wednesday, or Tuesday/Thursday schedules. Drop-off and pick-up locations are assigned and communicated clearly. If there are any changes to these locations, families will be notified promptly via Procure, text, and email.

CO-OPERATIVE DAYS:

Families can sign up for a monthly co-operative outing. As a co-operative parent (or grandparent, caregiver, etc.) you must attend the co-operative alongside your student(s).



LATE PICK-UP POLICY:

A \$5.00 late pick-up fee is assessed to any late pick-up exceeding 15 minutes of closing and an accruing \$1.00 per minute after that.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY:

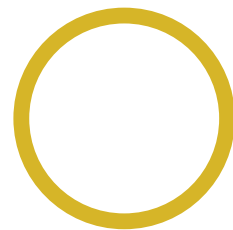
Families must provide written notice before withdrawal from Wild Wander Forest School

- Notice should be given 30 days before the upcoming month of withdrawal.
- The non-refundable enrollment fee may be utilized for the final month of tuition and tuition will be canceled for the upcoming month. There is no proration of the non-refundable enrollment fee if a family chooses not to attend the full, final, upcoming month.
- If notice is given after tuition is paid on the 25th for the upcoming month, tuition remains non-refundable.
- In all cases, the non-refundable enrollment fee remains non-refundable but may be utilized for the final, full month of attendance. There is no proration of the non-refundable enrollment fee.
- By enrolling your students, we reserve a spot for them in our program. If a student is withdrawn before classes start, the enrollment fee remains non-refundable.

NON-REFUNDABLE ENROLLMENT FEE:

A non-refundable enrollment fee equal to one month's tuition is required to secure your child's spot. This fee is non-refundable unless written notice of withdrawal is provided at least one full month in advance, in which case the fee may be applied to your final month of tuition.

Please note that regular monthly tuition payments are non-refundable. We encourage families to ensure that Wild Wander Forest School is the right fit before making a financial commitment.



TUITION:

Tuition rates and policies are outlined in a separate addendum provided to all families. Should a tuition adjustment become necessary, Wild Wander Forest School will notify currently enrolled families at least 30 days in advance of any changes.

Please note that all paid tuition is non-refundable.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Wild Wander Forest School offers both full-week and partial-week programming for our early childhood classes. Full-week programs run Monday through Friday, while partial-week options include Monday/Wednesday/Friday, Monday/Wednesday, or Tuesday/Thursday schedules. Drop-off and pick-up locations are assigned and communicated clearly. If there are any changes to these locations, families will be notified promptly via Procure, text, and email.



CHANGE OF SCHEDULE OR LOCATION:

As a fully outdoor forest school, we embrace the unpredictability of nature—and with that comes the need for flexibility. To ensure student safety and continuity of learning, Wild Wander Forest School reserves the right to adjust class locations or schedules as needed.

Weather, trail conditions, or other unforeseen circumstances may require last-minute changes. Teachers will communicate all updates promptly via Procure messages and email, both before and during class, to keep families informed in real time.

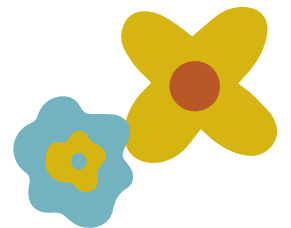
We appreciate your partnership in adapting to the rhythms of the natural world.

RULES OF KINDNESS:

At Wild Wander Forest School, we place a strong emphasis on cultivating community. We believe that celebrating each other's differences fosters empathy, encouragement, and authentic connection among students.

Discussions around friendship and teamwork take on deeper meaning in a place-based, outdoor environment—where collaboration and shared experience are essential. Children are reminded each day to bring kind hearts and encouraging minds, nurturing a culture where everyone feels seen, supported, and valued.

PARENT CONDUCT:



As a small, relationship-based community, we ask that parents and caregivers model the same values we encourage in our students—respect for the program, for one another, and for the shared spaces we inhabit.

If concerns arise, we welcome open communication and ask that they be brought directly to our administrative team so we can work together toward a thoughtful solution. We view parents as essential partners in this journey, and a strong school-home connection is key to the success of our program.

CLOTHING:

Ensuring your child is dressed appropriately for all-weather, outdoor learning is critical to their comfort, safety, and ability to fully participate in our program.

Children must arrive each day in clothing suited to the forecast and ready for movement, mess, and exploration. This means layers for changing temperatures, and clothing that allows for climbing, running, building, and getting dirty.

On wet or rainy days, students are required to wear the following:

- Waterproof rain jacket and rain pants
- Waterproof boots
- Two-piece wool or silk base layers
- Wool or silk socks
- A knit hat

Please pack extra clothes daily, and know that staff will guide students to layer up as weather shifts. If a child arrives without proper gear, parents will be contacted to bring it—or, if necessary, pick up their child.



Students will not be admitted to class on rainy days without the required rain protection.

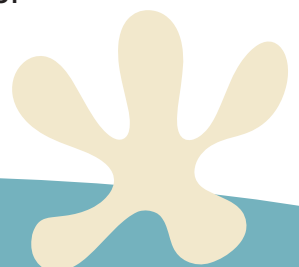


Thank you for helping us create a safe and joyful all-weather experience for

SHOES:

Because we hike several miles each day—often over uneven, rocky terrain—it's essential that your child wears sturdy, well-fitted hiking boots or trail shoes with socks.

Footwear with good traction supports both safety and success in our outdoor environment.



BACKPACK:

Please ensure your child has a hiking backpack sized appropriately for their body. A backpack that's too large can make hiking uncomfortable and tiring.

The pack should rest mid-back—not hang below it. Look for one with adjustable straps to allow for easy fit adjustments as needed, and a sternum strap to help keep shoulder straps securely in place during movement.

A well-fitting backpack helps your child hike more comfortably and confidently—so they can focus on the adventure, not the gear!

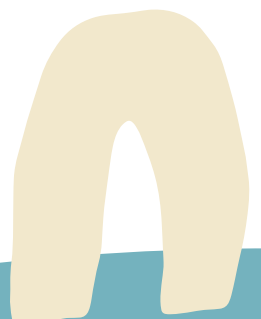
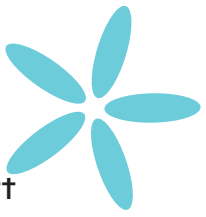
INCLEMENT WEATHER:

As a fully outdoor program, we embrace all kinds of weather—and some of our most joyful, memorable days happen in the rain, wind, or cold!

While adults may feel hesitant about the elements, children see weather as part of the adventure—rain means puddles, and wind means movement and wonder.

We encourage families to approach all-weather days with a positive mindset, as children naturally mirror the attitudes of the adults around them.

In the rare event of severe or unsafe conditions (such as high winds or lightning), class may be canceled on a case-by-case basis for safety.



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION:

School Event Participation:

- Fall Festival
- Holiday Market
- Spring Art Showcase
- Family Picnics
- End-of-Year Celebration Picnic

MEALS & SNACKS:

If your child has any allergies or specific dietary needs, please inform us as soon as possible so we can ensure their safety and comfort.

We ask that families pack a nutritious, balanced lunch each day in a lightweight, easy-to-carry container. Lunchboxes should be simple for children to open and close on their own—bento-style containers work especially well for outdoor meals.

Thank you for helping us support healthy, independent eating habits in the forest!

DAILY PREPAREDNESS:

Students should arrive at the Wild Wander Forest School designated drop-off area with their backpack, including:

- Extra set of clothes in a plastic bag: shirt, pants, socks, underwear
- Extra shoes if warranted
- Jacket & sun hat
- Lunch & snack
- Filled, lightweight water bottle
- Sunscreen applied and in a backpack
- Whistle (for safety)
- Rain gear if forecast to rain, with an extra plastic trash bag

HEALTH & SAFETY

RESTROOMS:

While we have access to clean public restrooms at most of our locations, there may be times when returning to a bathroom isn't possible in the moment. In these cases, students may use a "nature potty"—a safe, respectful outdoor restroom option supported by teacher-provided sanitary supplies and hygiene practices.

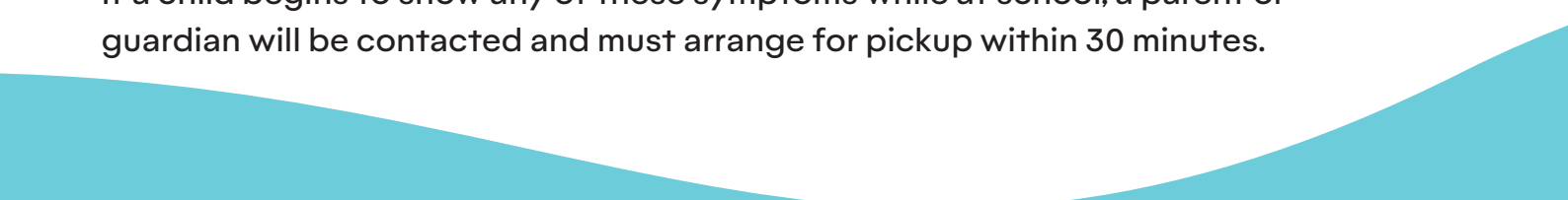
Please ensure your child uses the restroom before arriving at school each day to help minimize urgent situations in the field.

ILLNESS:

To protect the health of all students and staff, children must be kept home if they exhibit any of the following symptoms:

- Fever of 100.3°F or higher
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Conjunctivitis (pink eye) or eye discharge
- Severe or persistent coughing
- Unexplained skin rash
- Difficulty or rapid breathing
- Presence of nits or lice
- General signs of illness or visible discomfort

If a child begins to show any of these symptoms while at school, a parent or guardian will be contacted and must arrange for pickup within 30 minutes.



DIARRHEA:

If a student experiences diarrhea during the school day, they must be picked up immediately. Upon returning to school, their attendance is considered provisional. Should another episode occur, the student will need to be picked up right away and may require additional recovery time at home to ensure full wellness.

FEVER:

If a student has a temperature of 100.3°F or higher, a parent or guardian will be contacted and asked to pick up their child promptly. Students may return to school once they have been fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication. This means they will need to remain home for at least one full day after being sent home.

Depending on symptoms and current health guidelines, a COVID-19 test may be required before returning to class.

INJURIES:

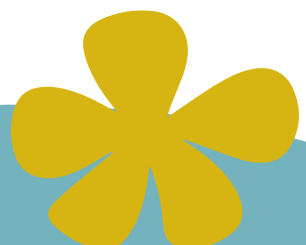


All Wild Wander Forest School teachers are trained in First Aid and CPR to ensure the safety and care of our students at all times.

For minor injuries such as scrapes, cuts, or insect bites, the area will be gently cleaned with liquid soap and cool water. A clean bandage or dressing will be applied as needed.

If your child experiences a moderate, non-life-threatening injury, you will receive a written Accident/Incident Report detailing what occurred and how staff responded. You will be contacted immediately if the injury involves visible swelling, the face or head, or if it requires further medical attention.

In the event of a serious medical emergency, emergency services will be contacted first. Your child will be transported by ambulance to the nearest hospital, and a staff member will notify you—or your listed emergency contact—right away.



EMERGENCY ROUTINES:

As a fully outdoor forest school, we have additional safety protocols in place to ensure the well-being of every student. One key part of our emergency preparedness is monthly practice drills where students learn exactly what to do if they ever become separated from the group.

Our “Lost in the Forest” safety steps include:

- Stop. Hug a tree. Blow your whistle or call out. Step away from water.
- Stay visible. Sit beside a tree in an open area. If you’re on a trail, stay seated on the trail.
- If it’s windy, move away from tall trees and into a clear space.
- Stay warm. Use your packed extra layers, jacket, or hat if you feel cold while waiting.

These safety practices are taught gently and consistently to help students feel empowered, not afraid—giving them the tools and confidence to stay safe in the outdoors.

PHOTO RELEASE:

I give permission for my child(ren) to be photographed and/or recorded while participating in activities at Wild Wander Forest School’s outdoor sites. I understand that these images or videos may be used in, Daily exploration slides, Internal documentation and school records, and public platforms such as the school’s website, social media, and advertising materials

I understand that no identifying information (e.g., full name) will be publicly shared without separate written consent.

Please indicate your level of comfort regarding how your child may be photographed:

☐

Full Consent

My child may appear in front-facing, side-profile, and non-identifiable (back-facing or silhouette) photos or videos.

☐

Partial Consent

My child may only appear in side-profile or non-identifiable images.

☐

Limited Consent

My child may only appear in non-identifiable images (e.g., from behind, hands-only, or without face visible).

Student’s Name: _____

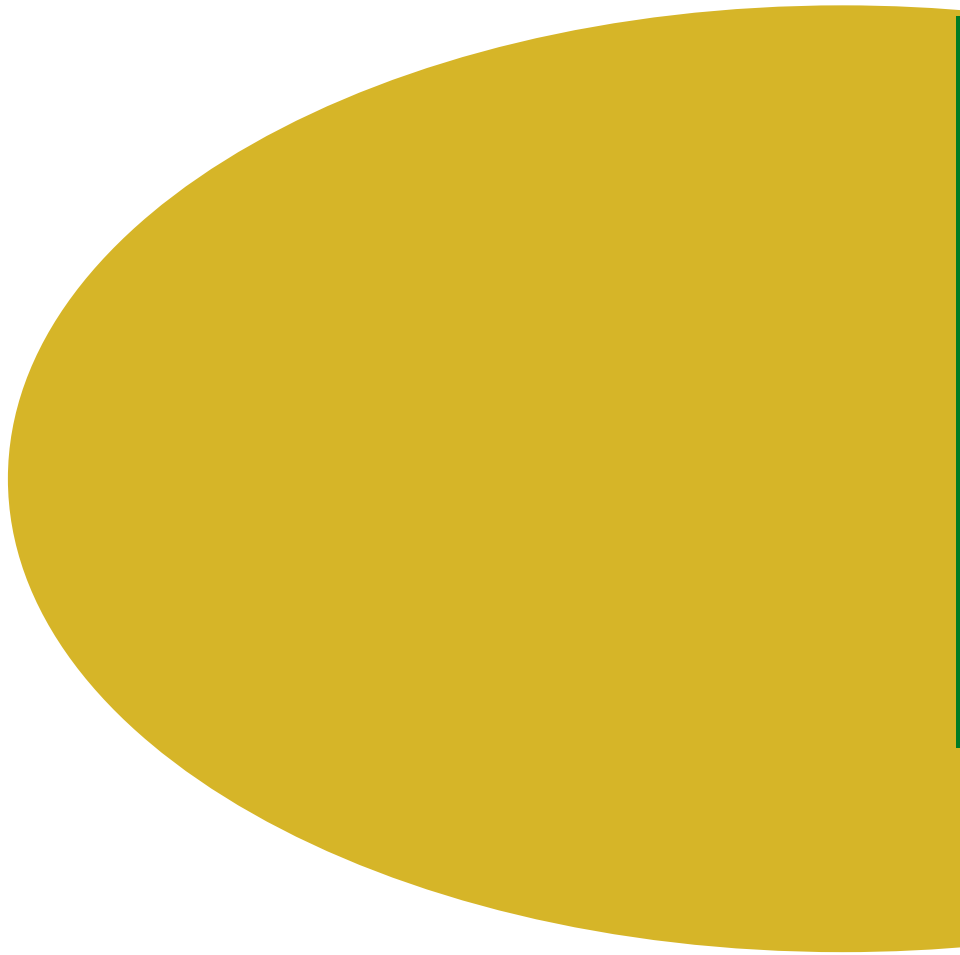
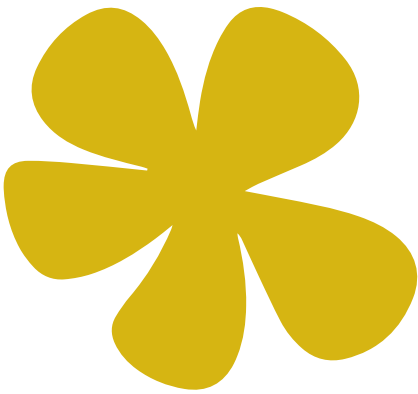
Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

THANK YOU

FOR YOUR ATTENTION



www.wilwanderforestschool.com

2292 Faraday Ave. STE 110,
Carlsbad 92008