

Schoolhouse of Wonder

WINTER 2021-22

CAMP UPDATES



A special update for our winter camps

MISSION & VALUES

Overview

Schoolhouse of Wonder is a place where everyone can play, learn, and grow toward being their best selves. Our team of driven and talented mentors loves learning together with children ages 3-17 through our outdoor camps, field trips, and leadership training.

Diversity & Inclusion

At Schoolhouse of Wonder, we celebrate individuality. Different is just different. We are committed to creating an inclusive environment where folks feel welcome to share their authentic selves. We support and celebrate our diverse community members of all races, genders, ages, religions, and identities.

Mission

Schoolhouse of Wonder creates kind, curious, and confident kids through nature-based, outdoor adventures.

Values

- We model and teach self-awareness and empathy
- We celebrate individuality; different is just different
- Everyone deserves to be witnessed, heard, and respected
- In nature, we're all students
- Life should be filled with adventures and a sense of wonder
- We send every kid home dirty, tired, and happy

NEW - TRAVEL POLICIES

TRAVEL DURING COVID

Schoolhouse of Wonder relies on cooperation, care, and open communication from families to keep our campers, their families, and our staff safe during COVID-19. During this winter holiday season, we know many families travel. We are using the [CDC Travel Recommendations](#) as guidelines for camps this winter season. These guidelines may be updated at any time.

- **Unvaccinated campers must get tested with a viral test 3-5 days after travel outside of North Carolina AND stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel. Unvaccinated campers will not be allowed in camp before this quarantine period is over, regardless of the test outcome.**
- Even if your camper tests negative, they should stay home and self-quarantine for the full 7 days.
- If your camper's test is positive, isolate yourself to protect others from getting infected.
- If your camper doesn't get tested, they should stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel.

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

Domestic Travel

RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Not Vaccinated

Fully Vaccinated

Get tested 1-3 days before travel



Get tested 3-5 days after travel and self-quarantine for 7 days. Self-quarantine for 10 days if you don't get tested.



Self-monitor for symptoms



Wear a mask and take other precautions during travel



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

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WINTER CAMP HOURS

CAMP HOURS

9:00a - 5:00p

DROP OFF

8:15a - 9:00a

PICK UP

5:00p - 5:30p

OPTIONAL EARLY PICK UP 3:00p - 3:30p

FAMILY CIRCLE

Unfortunately, we're still skipping our traditional Friday afternoon family circle. We'll be working hard to keep you in the loop about what's happening in our camp days and weeks!

CAMP STORE

We have some awesome stuff in our camp store including shirts, water bottles, turtle necklaces, and more! For now, you can order in our [online store](#) by visiting our website!

PHOTOS & SOCIAL MEDIA

We want to share how much fun we're all having at camp!

- We routinely post photos on Facebook and Instagram.
- We update the Schoolhouse Blog with Conversation Starters to help you learn more about your child's experiences and a photo gallery of the full adventure (after each week of camp).
- You must grant Photo Permission for pictures of your child to be included. Images of your child will not include their name. Please update the information in your account according to your wishes.

WHAT TO BRING TO WINTER CAMP

- **Water bottle** (16 oz. or larger)
- **Comfortable shoes or boots** (that can get dirty)
- **Extra (dry) clothes** can be nice to change into if campers get wet (especially socks!)

Bring weather-appropriate clothes for any rainy or chilly weather!

- **A folding lockable blade or fixed blade 4" or less. All fixed blade knives must be stored in a protective sheath.** (Pocket knives are optional for 8-12 year olds, but are NOT allowed for 5-7 year olds.)

NEW!

- **Three Masks.** No masks with valves or vents, and no neck gaiters. We are expecting masks to get sweaty during the day!
- **Sunscreen, yes even in the winter!** We highly recommend broad spectrum with SPF 15 or higher. We strongly discourage the use of aerosol products.

A warm hat and gloves can help a chilly camper have a great time!

FOOD

Lunch: Please send a packed lunch with your camper each day that does not require refrigeration or heating. Campers often eat more at camp than at school. Please pack a little extra food.

Snacks: Please send two snacks each day in addition to lunch.

MEDS

Campers are not allowed to self-administer any medications. We will sign in all medications on the first day of camp and keep them the whole week in a locked first aid kit. Medications must be in original packaging with dosage instructions.

TIPS FROM THE PROS

Weight: Remember your child will be carrying their backpack for some or most of the day! Extra weight in a backpack can create an unnecessary challenge.

Backpacks: Many school backpacks are fine for our programs. Please don't send backpacks with string or rope straps. A comfortable backpack (size and style) will make for a better day.

Gross Lunchboxes: Avoid a mess! Pack an extra plastic zip-top bag for lunch trash. This can keep messy or unfinished food from becoming an unwelcome surprise. Send small, resealable drinks instead of juice boxes or pouches that aren't always finished in one sitting.

Footwear: Please send shoes or boots appropriate for the weather. Wet shoes can be very cold! If your child likes rainboots, please pack extra socks (rain boots can be cold since the sole is uninsulated).

Water Gear: Water gear is not necessary during winter camps - brrr!

LEAVE IT AT HOME

Man-made Entertainment like:

- Toys
- Electronics
- Sports or Gaming Equipment
- Money
- Books
- Playing cards and trading cards
- Valuables

Cell phones, like other

electronics, are not allowed at camp for any age camper. This includes watches or any other device capable of making a call.

If you need to reach your camper please call the Camp Coordinator at the number below:

- In Durham: (984) 710-2620.
- In Wake: (984) 710-2709.
- In Orange: (984) 710-2708.

Don't send anything that will be a big deal if it gets muddy, dropped in a creek, or even lost.

GENERAL CAMP POLICIES



CAMPER SAFETY

Physical and emotional safety is always our first priority.

We ensure quality programs through:

- Competitive hiring practices that result in a dedicated, responsible, and caring team of mentors.
- All staff maintain First Aid and CPR certifications, with many earning additional certifications.
- Thorough background checks on all staff.
- Extensive staff training on child development, behavior management, emergency response, bullying prevention, and more.
- Low camper-to-staff ratios.
- Educating campers about common hazards in the camp environment (e.g. poison ivy, biting/stinging insects, snakes, ticks).
- An organizational emphasis on engagement that places our experienced staff right next to your child while they explore, learn, and grow.

WATER SAFETY

Schoolhouse of Wonder does not allow swimming; however, campers frequently have an opportunity to wade in the river and creeks (weather permitting). Firm, clear boundaries and water safety rules will be explained to campers at the outset of water time each day.

While wading, campers will always:

- Be in full sight of counselors.
- Be in water that is not deeper than their navel.
- Wear shoes.

Water time is particularly weather-dependent in the fall, winter, and spring. As the temperature cools, we may shift to water explorations with only feet getting wet or skipping water time altogether if it is too chilly!



COVID POLICIES

Guidance on COVID practices can change. Please stay up to date by visiting [COVID-19 Precautions](#) and [Program Policies](#) on our website.

MASKS - UPDATED 10.20.21

Updates issued by CDC on May 28, 2021, provide guidance on outdoor mask usage. Staff and campers are required to wear masks when outdoors if not able to maintain proper physical distancing. Masks will be worn any time we are indoors, in a crowded outdoor setting, or during activities with sustained close contact.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Some parts of camp will continue to be modified as we aim to stay spread out. In the case of inclement weather, we may need to move to an indoor space, where we will remain masked and as distanced as possible.

CLEANLINESS

Camp supplies will be disinfected, we'll be limiting shared activity supplies, and as always, there will be no sharing of food.

HEALTH SCREENINGS

We'll be asking parents to partner with us in keeping campers home if they or any members of their household show any symptoms of COVID-19.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Pick Up and Drop Off may look a little different this year as we work to keep our cohorts separate and limit exposure for our families. We'll let you know specifics for your camp via email.

All campers must be signed in and out of camp each day. Schoolhouse of Wonder requires anyone picking up a child to be listed in advance, preferably through your online account. Anybody not listed will not be allowed to pick up a child.

Drop off is between 8:15a and 9:00a. All camp groups leave the drop-off areas promptly at 9:00a. Sending staff to meet late campers creates significant challenges and may negatively impact the entire group.

Regular Pick up for Intersession Camps is between 5:00p and 5:30p. With advanced notice, any child can be picked up at the 3:00p to 3:30p time. Alternate pick-ups outside of those times require advanced Camp Coordinator approval.

Durham - West Point on the Eno: During Intersession camps, drop off and pickup are at the first "upper" parking lot,

Orange - Brumley Forest: During Intersession Camps, drop off and pick up are along the private drive. Please obey parking signs.

Wake - Umstead Amphitheater: During Intersession Camps, drop off and pick up are at the bulletin board near the bathrooms at the main parking lot of the I-40 Reedy Creek entrance.

Wake - Umstead Whispering Pines: To reach Whispering Pines, head to the I-40 Reedy Creek entrance of Umstead State Park. Turn right onto the road with the brown barricade. The park staff have given us permission to carefully pass on the left side of the barricade. Please, drive slowly and carefully. About 1/3 of a mile on your right will be a small A-frame Schoolhouse of Wonder sign. Turn right onto Whispering Pines Road and drive approximately 1/2 mile. For Intersession Camps, drop off and pick up are at the end of the gravel road.





RAINY, SLEETY, WEATHER DAYS

DURHAM

In case of inclement weather, pick up may be moved to either of the picnic shelters or the Photo Museum. We will have staff at the turn into the first parking area to let you know where your camper's pick-up area is.

WAKE - AMPHITHEATER

In case of inclement weather, pick up may be at Shelter #2 instead of the typical pick-up area.

WAKE - WHISPERING PINES

In case of inclement weather, we will have staff at the end of the Whispering Pines gravel road to direct you to your camper's pick-up spot.

ORANGE

In case of inclement weather, the pick-up area may be located near the typical drop-off areas or at the barn. If pick-up is moved to the barn, we will contact all parents in advance and have a staff member available at the regular area to provide any additional directions.

OUR CAMP GUARANTEE

Dirty, Tired, Happy or your money back.

We will return your child dirty, tired, and happy -- or we will refund your child's remaining camp tuition.

If for ANY reason your child decides that camp is not for them and chooses to leave camp before the end of the week, we'll refund camp tuition for the remaining days.

Our Dirty, Tired, Happy Guarantee provides a prorated tuition refund to any child departing before the conclusion of his or her registered camp, with the exception of those who have been asked not to return for inappropriate behavior. We will take your tuition payment, divide it by five for the daily rate, multiply it by the number of days your child will not be attending, and process a refund to the credit card with which you paid for camp. And that's a promise.

To obtain a refund under our Dirty, Tired, and Happy Guarantee, all you have to do is send us a written request within a week stating that your child did not enjoy camp and that you would like a refund. It's that simple. Guaranteed.

If a camper is kept home due to a COVID-19 diagnosis or symptoms, we will credit you for missed days.

EARNING YOUR TRUST

Our camps present a unique opportunity for children to grow and learn. While we're confident and proud of our camps, we realize that no one community is a perfect fit for every child. So we offer you our Dirty, Tired, Happy Guarantee to build trust. We don't know a better way to demonstrate the confidence we have in our program than by putting our money where our mouth is.