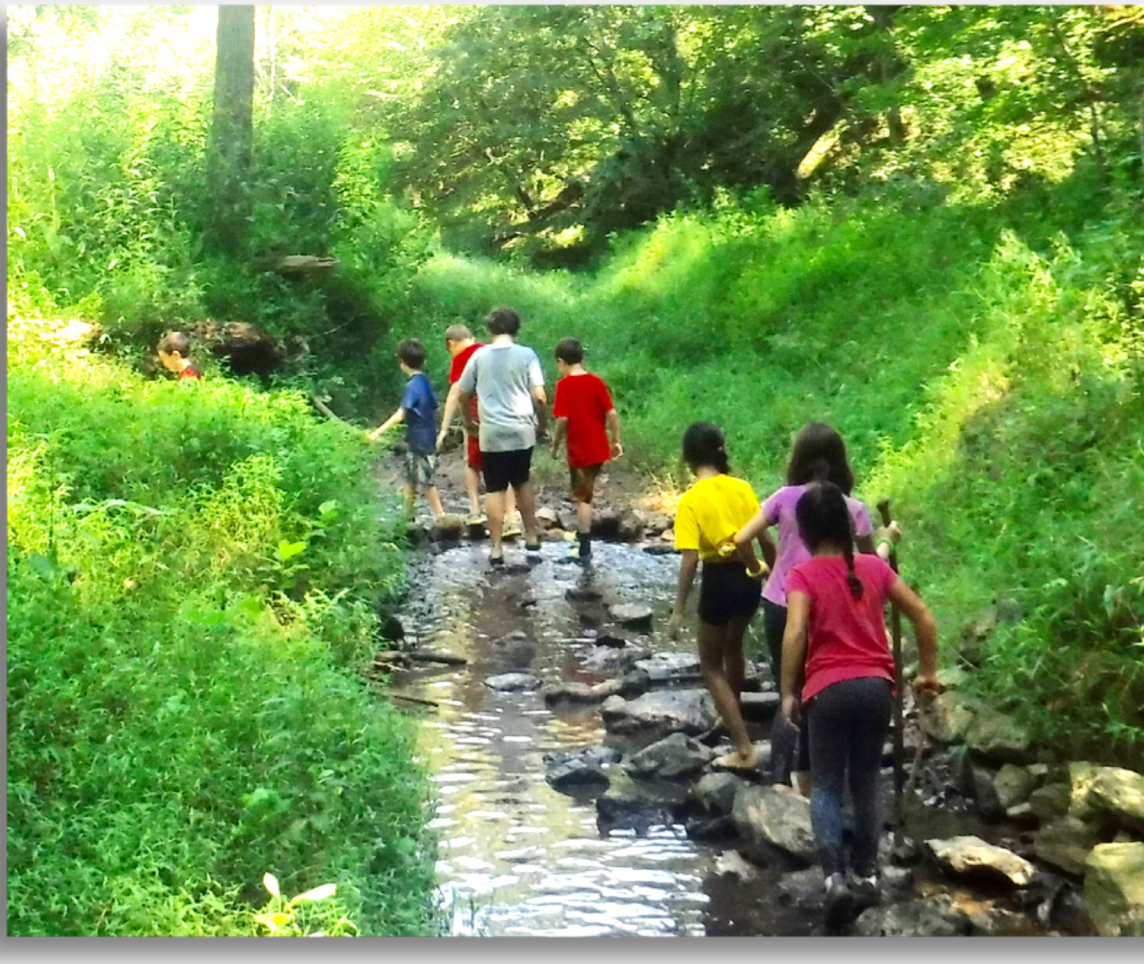
Schoolhouseof Wonder

INTERSESSION 2023

CAMP HANDBOOK



A seasonal update for a exciting season

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

INTERSESSION CAMP HOURS

CAMP HOURS
9:00a - 5:00p

DROP OFF
Durham and Orange
8:00a - 9:00a

Wake
8:15a - 9:00a

PICK UP
5:00p - 5:30p

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

Once or twice a spring, we have 5-6 year old camps that have a 3-3:30p pick up!

FAMILY CIRCLE

Friends and family are invited to celebrate the week with us at Family Circle on Friday afternoons. Family Circle starts at 4:45p.

CAMP STORE

We have some awesome stuff in our camp store including shirts, water bottles, and more! Camp store will be Friday afternoons after Family Circle and we accept credit cards only.

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 CAMP

- **Water bottle:** 16 oz. or larger, we'll refill during the day
- **Weather-appropriate clothes and a change of clothes**
- **Comfortable shoes** that can get a little dirty
- **Water gear** like a swimsuit or clothes that can get wet, a small towel, and shoes for water time. Examples include Keens, Crocs, or old sneakers. No flip-flops.

Please send clothes and shoes that your camper can change with minimal assistance.

- **Sunscreen:** We recommend broad-spectrum with SPF 15 or higher. We strongly discourage the use of aerosol products.
- **Insect repellent:** We encourage you to select an insect repellent that deters ticks, mosquitoes, and chiggers: www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/find-repellent-right-you. We strongly discourage the use of aerosol products and products that combine sunscreen and insect repellent.)
- **Masks** are optional.

- **Knives are optional for 7-12 year olds:** A folding lockable blade *or* fixed blade 4" or less. All fixed blade knives must be stored in a protective sheath. (Knives are NOT allowed for 5-6 year olds. Whittling tools will be provided for campers without knives.)

Please start each day with sunscreen and insect repellant on!

FOOD

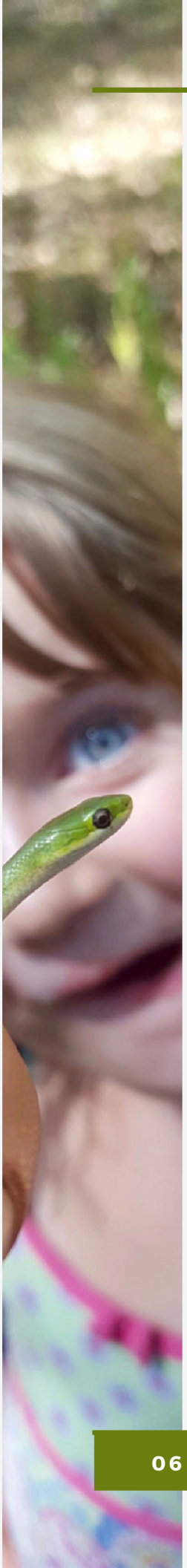
Lunch: Please send a packed lunch with your camper each day that does not require refrigeration or heating. Campers often eat more at camp than at school. Please pack a little extra food.

Snacks: Please send two snacks each day.

Because we don't share food, nuts are ok to bring!

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. Medications must be in original packaging with dosage instructions.



TIPS FROM THE PROS

Overloaded Bags: Your child will be carrying their backpack for a good part of the day! A heavy or over-stuffed bag can create an unnecessary challenge to carrying or independently packing their bag.

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: Many kids like wearing their water shoes (with or without socks) all day if they're comfortable for walking. If they don't arrive in water shoes, please send some shoes that can get wet.

Water Gear: Some kids prefer to arrive in water gear and change into dry clothes after water time.

LEAVE IT AT HOME

Man-made Entertainment like:

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

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

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

If you need to reach your camper please call the Site Manager at the number below:

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

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

·We encourage masking as an extra precaution, but we do not require masks while outdoors or indoors (unless someone is identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19).

VACCINATION

We encourage all people who are eligible to be vaccinated to do so. This is the best way to protect yourself and the community from the most severe symptoms of COVID-19. While all Schoolhouse staff are required to be up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations, we do not require campers to be vaccinated.

CLEANLINESS

Hand sanitizing is encouraged, including before eating. Food sharing is not allowed, except for siblings.

FEELING SICK?

We'll be asking parents to partner with us in keeping campers home if they show any symptoms of COVID-19, have a positive diagnosis, or a just plain sick.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Double-check your Ultracamp account to update the approved pick-up people before your camper's week starts!

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 begins at 8:00a in Durham and Orange and 8:15a in Wake. Drop off ends at 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 Site Manager approval.

Durham - West Point on the Eno: Enter the park to the right and take your first left. Drop off is at the first "upper" parking lot,

Orange - Brumley Forest: Drop off and pick up are in the cul-de-sac straight ahead on the paved road.

Wake - Harris Lake: Check-in is at the Disc Golf/Fishing Pond gravel parking lot, which is the third road on your right. Signs are posted at the cable entrance to the disc golf access area.

Wake - Umstead Whispering Pines: After entering the 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 0.3 miles on your right will be a Schoolhouse of Wonder sign. Turn right on to Whispering Pines Road and drive 0.5 miles. Our Drop Off and Pick Up locations are at the end of this gravel road.

Wake - Umstead Amphitheater: 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.

RAINY DAYS

DURHAM

In case of inclement weather, pick up may be moved to either of the picnic shelters or other sheltered areas near the loop. We will have staff at the upper parking lot area to let you know where your camper's pick-up area is.

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.

WAKE - HARRIS LAKE

In the event of rain, drop off and pick up will take place under the Loblolly Shelter located in the day use area.

WAKE - WHISPERING PINES

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

WAKE - AMPHITHEATER

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

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 registration.

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.

If you and your child decide that our camp is not the right fit and choose to not return, we'll refund your camp registration for the remaining days of the camp week.

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

Our Dirty, Tired, Happy Guarantee provides a prorated tuition refund to any child departing before the conclusion of their registered camp, with the exception of those who have been asked not to return for inappropriate behavior, We will take your tuition payment and divide by the number of camp days for a daily rate, multiply 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.

We recognize that we might not be the right fit for your camper now, but as they grow and change, we may be a great fit in the future. Any camper who receives a Dirty, Tired, Happy refund is welcome to give camp another try at least one year (or more) after the refund.

See you out there,
The Schoolhouse Team