



*Learning, naturally.*



# forest preschool

## THE REWILDING SCHOOL

An all-outdoor forest setting for your preschooler,  
right here in Westchester County.



Parent Guide 2021-22



We are an outdoor, nature-based preschool where children learn and grow through story-based imaginative learning, multi-sensory exploration, and age-appropriate social development. Through immersive exposure to the natural world, students foster connections to the land, each other, and themselves that form the building blocks for a lifetime of learning. If you are looking for an all-outdoor setting for your preschooler to explore their imagination and build connections that last a lifetime, reach out and see if the Rewilding Forest Preschool is right for your child!



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Over the course of the year in our outdoor classroom, your preschooler will be encouraged to **dig** for earthworms • **search** for sticks • **observe** chipmunks and squirrels • listen to birds • **discover** new habitats • build a campfire • **track** woodland critters • splash in puddles • catch a fish • **play** in the snow • **taste** foraged food • shoot a (soft-tipped) bow & arrow • wear bandaids • **build** shelters • climb trees • create leaf art • **tell stories** • **experiment** with new skills and materials • take risks • meet new critters • **make friends**

Schedule

Our preschool programs offers a choice of **mornings from 9:15 AM to 12:00 PM** or **afternoons from 1:00 to 3:45 PM** from September 8, 2021, to June 17, 2022. Families may choose two, three, or five days a week.

**Example Morning Session**

**9:15** Drop-off and morning meeting. Hear a story about chickadees & woodpeckers searching for grubs.

**9:30** Make wooden “beaks” by grinding branches against stones, and find a rotten log to excavate for insects.

**10:15** Play beaks-and-seeds game to find “food” and bring it back to the nest.

**11:30** Snack, story, and stations play.

**12:00** Pick up.



## Staff

Led by an ancestral skills educator with over a decade of professional experience guiding kids, our staff members are all experienced environmental educators trained in first aid and CPR/AED for children. They are trained not only to foster connections with the natural world, but also to meet students' social and emotional needs so that they can discover their strengths and connect with each other along the way.

## Locations

We are incredibly fortunate to be learning and growing at two beautiful, wild locations during the 2021-22 school year, **Brinton Brook Sanctuary in Croton-on-Hudson** and **Marsh Sanctuary in Mt Kisco**. Each setting offers 156 acres of wilderness to explore throughout the year. In the event of dangerous weather, sessions will be cancelled for the day.



## COVID Update

We are committed to offering a safe learning environment, and **masks are required at all times** as per CDC guidelines and state guidance. Please see our website for the most up-to-date details on our safety protocols.

## Forest Stewardship

Taking care of the environment means connecting people to the land. Study after study has shown this to be **beneficial not only for the world at large but for kids' development**. Students give back to the preserve too, by participating in our Forest Stewardship days.



## Equipment

Your child needs to come to preschool every day with clothing appropriate for the weather, a small backpack for snacks and water, and appropriate footwear. A full list of recommended clothing for each season is provided upon registration.

## Safety

The outdoors can be a scary and unpredictable place. It is these qualities that make it a **perfect environment for young kids to learn about risk and reward**. As part of this preschool, your child may come with the occasional scrape, thorn scratch, insect bite, or a host of other minor injuries. Staff are trained to recognize the difference between appropriate levels of risk and inappropriate levels of risk and act accordingly, guiding children to make skill and age-appropriate choices.

## Food

Parents are asked to pack snacks each day that their kids will enjoy. Occasionally, we will also taste wild foods that have been properly identified and prepared. In the case of a food allergy, we may ask that children not share food, or that certain food items not be brought to school. Please note that we do not have a kitchen and cannot heat lunch items regularly.



**A note about ticks.** Tick bites can transmit several diseases, and are a fact of life when you play in the woods. Parents are encouraged to take whatever precautions they feel are necessary to avoid tick bites and asked to do a full body tick check each day, right after school.



## FAQ's

**How old are the students in the preschool?** All of our students are between 3 and 5 at the start of the school year.

**Does my child need to be potty trained?** Yes, prior to the start of school your child must be potty trained..

**How many other kids will be in the class?** Your child's class will be no more than 10 kids, with two staff members on hand at all times.

**How does weather affect the school?** Rain is great! Thunder is not. During inclement weather, students will be outside or in our open-air schoolhouse. In the event of dangerous weather - including predicted lightning, winds over 20 mph, or temperatures below 20F - class will be canceled for the day.

**Does the Rewilding School provide transportation?** No. An authorized adult must always drop off and pick up your child.

**If my child requires additional assistance, can an aide come along?** Absolutely! Any child with an aide at preschool can bring a non-family aide to Forest Preschool.

**How do you build academic skills without a classroom?** The same way kids have for generations, by playing. We build literacy skills through story telling and books that align with our subject matter. A library is a permanent fixture in our open-air school house. Math skills are built everyday, from counting gallons of maple syrup to figuring what size sticks we need for our shelter.

## Tuition

This year our fees have increased to allow us to adjust for inflation, support conservation efforts for the land we use, and provide health insurance and pension benefits for our staff.

We offer two-day, three-day, and five-day a week options for a total of \$2876, \$4064, and \$6440 respectively. All programs are billed monthly through recurring payments, and our \$500 initial deposit is non-refundable. Payments are billed on the first of the month for the following month, for a total of 9 monthly payments at \$264, \$396, or \$660. We cannot pro-rate tuition for missed classes. Any and all refunds are at the sole discretion of The Rewilding School.

## Registration

Priority is always given to registrants of our full, five-day program. If spots remain in our five-day program after April 1, 2021, we will begin accepting registrations for two and three days a week. To reserve a spot, please complete our **Forest Preschool September 2021 Registration Google Survey** to submit your interest in our program, selecting your child's age, location, and preferred dates and times or the week.

The Manager will review all submissions. If your submission is accepted, you will receive a confirmation email with instructions to complete the remaining registration forms, arrange a Parent-Director Virtual Meeting, and submit a deposit.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email us at **[info@rewildingschool.com](mailto:info@rewildingschool.com)**.

*The Rewilding Forest Preschool is not an accredited preschool, and is not licensed as a New York State Childcare Provider. We are not legally affiliated with any school.*





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The Rewilding School's Forest Preschool was founded by Eric Stone, an outdoor and primitive skills educator with over a decade of professional experience guiding kids, adults, and families along the path of deep nature connection. A graduate of SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry with a degree in Natural History Interpretation, Eric is a certified Wilderness Skills Instructor, Wilderness First Responder, USA Archery Coach, and licensed New York State Guide. After experience teaching in California, Oregon, and the Berkshires, he returned to the Hudson Valley and created The Rewilding School to offer connections between people, nature and each other.

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[rewildingschool.com](http://rewildingschool.com)



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