



*Kids need to splash in
puddles, crawl through
bushes, shoot bows, pick up
sticks, listen to birds, catch
bugs, play in the snow,
and dig for worms.*



forest preschool

THE REWILDING SCHOOL

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



Parents' Guide 2019-20



Founder and Preschool Director Eric Stone

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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Learning, naturally.

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 band-aids • **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 meets in a morning session for 3-4 year olds from 9:15-12 Monday-Wednesday, and an afternoon session for 4-5 year olds from 1-3:45 Monday-Thursday, from September 10, 2018, to June 21, 2019.

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.

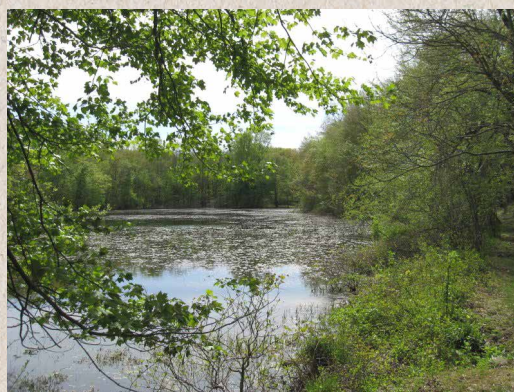


Staff

Led by a primitive 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' emotional needs so that they can discover their strengths and connect with each other along the way.

Location

We are incredibly fortunate to be learning and growing at Saw Mill River Audubon's **Brinton Brook Sanctuary in Croton-on-Hudson**. This 156-acre preserve has meadows, streams, deep woods, and a pond. In the event of rough weather, we have an alternate program site in the Croton area.



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. Parents who choose to participate in these days will also receive a discount on tuition.

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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.



Parent Q&A

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

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, to maximize your child's experience in the woods, with two staff members on hand at all times.

How does weather affect the school?
Rain is great! Thunder is not. If the weather is not dangerous, students will be outside or in our open-air schoolhouse. If the weather is expected to be dangerous, parents will be asked to drop off and pick-up at an alternate program site.

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

If my child needs additional assistance, can an aide go to school with them?
Absolutely! Any child with an aide at preschool can bring a non-family aide to the 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 the week's subject matter. A nature-themed library is a permanent fixture in our open-air school house. Math skills are built through counting the gallons of maple sap we gather off each tree, and figuring out what size sticks we need for our shelter.

Tuition

The cost for our morning program is \$4000, and \$5300 for our afternoon program; however, parents have the option to participate in three stewardship days for a reduced tuition rate. As a thank you for each day attended, parents of currently enrolled preschoolers will receive a \$200 credit to be used for any Rewilding School program in 2019 or a \$150 return. We cannot pro-rate tuition for missed classes. Any and all refunds are at the sole discretion of the Rewilding School. The \$500 initial deposit is non-refundable.

The payment schedule is as follows: \$500 due at time of registration. First payment (\$1300/1800) due September 1. Second payment (\$1300/1800) due December 1. Final payment (\$900/1200) due March 1.

Registration

Spots are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. To reserve a spot, you must submit a completed application with the following documents and a check for the initial deposit of \$500 made out to The Rewilding School.

A completed application includes:

- Registration Form
- Emergency Contact & Medical Form
- Liability Waiver
- Copy of Student's Immunization Records

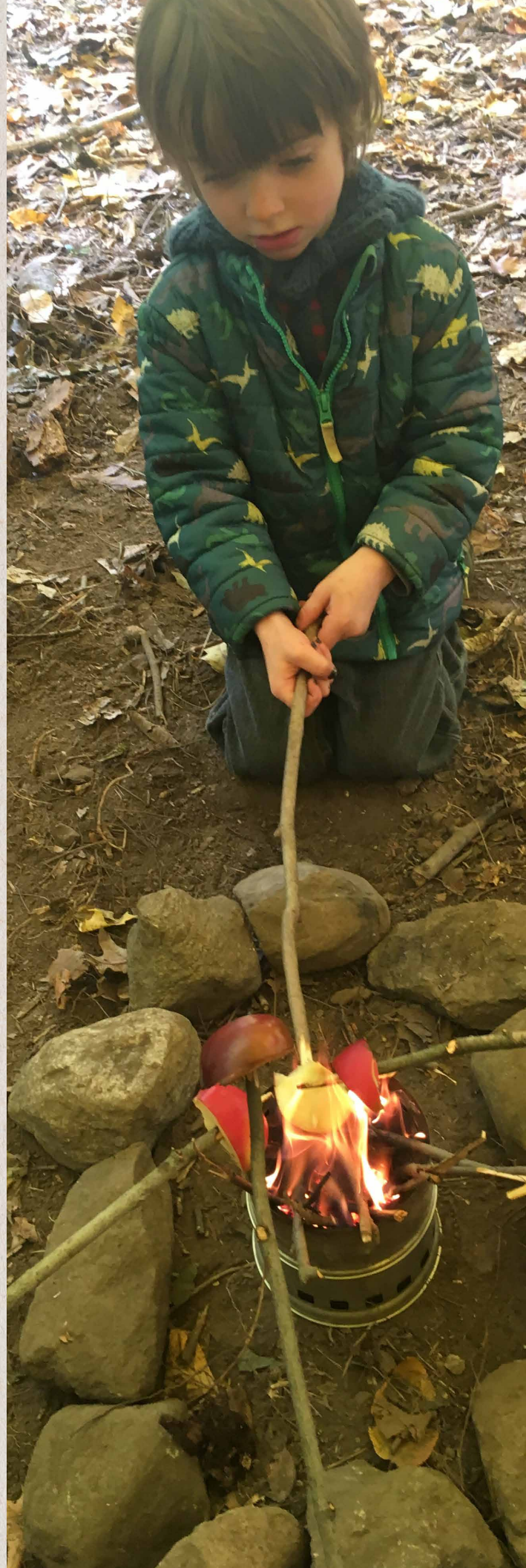
Please complete registration forms and mail to:



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**25 Cedar Street
Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522**

Please note that the Rewilding Forest Preschool program is not an accredited preschool and is not licensed as a New York State Childcare Provider. We are not legally affiliated with any school.





THE REWILDING SCHOOL

Eric Stone, Founder of The Rewilding School and its Forest Preschool, is 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. He graduated magna cum laude from SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry with a degree in Natural History Interpretation, is a certified Wilderness Skills Instructor, Wilderness First Responder, USA Archery Coach, and licensed New York State Guide. In addition to teaching in California, Oregon, and the Berkshires, he has run children's programs in Westchester County for the last five years including the popular Family Forest Weekends.

rewildingschool.com



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