

Forest Club

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Forest Club (Registration Packet)

Our Forest Club is inspired by the forest school approach, a child-centered model that brings

Dates:	8-week program: Sept. 2 - Oct. 28
Time:	Wednesday's 1:00-4:00PM
Location:	HeartPrints Outdoor classroom
Tuition	\$365
Registration Fee	\$100 (If not currently enrolled in a Heartprints programs)
Lunch Extension:	\$80 12:00-1:00PM * Note: Children may only attend lunch if they are enrolled in both a morning and afternoon program.
Age:	4-6 years old <i>Children should be able to manage their bathroom needs independently and comfortably participate in outdoor experiences where immediate bathroom access may not always be available.</i>

learning into natural environments. Children engage in hands-on, exploratory experiences that build curiosity, independence, problem-solving skills, and resilience. Teachers act as guides as children learn through play, discovery, and meaningful interaction with nature, supporting development across all areas while fostering a strong connection to the outdoors.

Program Expectations & Safety:

Please know this is a highly active, hands-on outdoor program.

Children may:

- Climb trees
- Engage with the creek
- Explore uneven terrain
- Build bridges and structures
- Use child safe tools: mallets, peelers, whittles
- Develop real-life skills through hands-on outdoor experiences

If the teaching team determines that a child is not developmentally ready to participate in this program safely, we will talk to the parents about alternative options, such as S.T.E.A.M. Club.

This program takes place in all weather conditions, except for lightning: in which case, the class will be moved indoors. Parents will be provided with a shopping list in advance to purchase appropriate outdoor clothing.

STEAM Club Families:

If your child is already registered for STEAM Club, you may choose to have them participate in the Forest Club instead at no additional cost.

Register here: <https://schools.mybrightwheel.com/paperwork/forms/1414eb8f-234b-45c4-a116-30e4fcb4ad39/edit>

Daily Schedule:

1:00-1:15 Arrive to class, use bathroom, get outfitted for outdoor play
1:15-2:15 Outdoor Classroom (no bathroom)
2:15-2:45 Return indoors for bathroom and snack
2:45-3:45 Outdoor Classroom (no bathroom)
3:45 Return to school for dismissal

Forest Club Parent Agreement

Our Forest Club is an outdoor, nature-based program designed to foster curiosity, resilience, and a deep connection with the natural world. Children will spend a significant portion of their time outdoors exploring, playing, and learning in all seasons.

By enrolling in Forest Club, I understand and agree with the following:

Forest Club Agreement

Age & Readiness Requirements (Ages 4–6)

Children should be able to manage their bathroom needs independently and comfortably participate in outdoor experiences where immediate bathroom access may not always be available. We encourage children to use the bathroom before and after forest time and to communicate their needs with a teacher.

Children should also be able to follow safety guidelines and respond to teacher direction with a reasonable level of independence, as the outdoor environment requires close group awareness.

Program Expectations & Safety

Forest Club is a highly active, hands-on outdoor program. Children may:

- Climb trees
- Engage with the creek
- Explore uneven terrain
- Build bridges and structures
- Use child-safe tools (such as mallets, peelers, and whittles)
- Develop real-life skills through hands-on outdoor experiences

If the teaching team determines that a child is not developmentally ready to participate safely, we will partner with families to explore alternative options, such as S.T.E.A.M. Club.

Outdoor Environment

Children will regularly participate in outdoor activities in a variety of weather conditions, including rain, snow, and cold temperatures (within safe limits). The outdoor environment includes uneven terrain, mud, water, sticks, rocks, and insects. I understand that minor scrapes, dirt, and exposure to the elements are a natural part of this experience.

Clothing & Gear Requirements

I agree to provide appropriate, weather-specific gear for my child each day. Proper gear is essential for comfort and safety, and without it, participation in certain activities may be limited.

Required Gear List

Please ensure your child comes prepared each day with the following:

We do like the Oaki products for durability but do not require families to use this brand (use what works for your family and your budget).

- **Water Bottle**
- **Backpack**

- **Daily Essentials:**
 - Weather-appropriate clothing (layers recommended)
 - Sturdy, closed-toe shoes
 - Extra full change of clothes (including shoes, socks and underwear)
- **Rainy/Muddy Weather:**
 - Rain boots
 - Waterproof jacket and pants (or full rain suit)
- **Cold Weather:**
 - Insulated coat
 - Hat and mittens/gloves water resistant
 - Warm layers (snow pants, thermal layers as needed recommend fleece or wool)
- **Warm Weather:**
 - Lightweight, breathable clothing
 - Sun hat (optional but recommended)

Please label all items. Expect clothing to get wet, muddy, and well-loved.

Weather Policy

This program takes place in all weather conditions, except for lightning or other unsafe conditions. In those cases, the class will be moved indoors.

Health & Safety

I understand that outdoor play may include exposure to ticks, insects, and environmental allergens. I agree to perform daily tick checks at home and inform the program of any known allergies or medical conditions. I give permission for staff to apply sunscreen and/or bug spray as authorized.

Program Flexibility

I understand that Forest Club plans may change based on weather, safety considerations, and the interests and needs of the children. Staff will use their professional judgment to adjust the schedule as needed.

Responsibility for Personal Items

I understand that clothing and gear may become wet, muddy, or worn during play. I agree to send extra clothing as needed and understand that the program is not responsible for normal wear and tear.

Communication & Partnership

I agree to maintain open communication with staff and support my child's participation by ensuring they arrive prepared each day. I understand that consistent participation in outdoor experiences is an important part of the program.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the Forest Club expectations and agree to support my child's participation in this outdoor program.

Parent/Guardian Name

Signature & Date

Flyer



 **HeartPrints**
Center for Early Education

Calling all Nature Lovers!

**New outdoor learning opportunity in
the HeartPrints' Outdoor Classroom:**

FOREST CLUB

Forest Club invites children to spend extended time outdoors exploring, wondering, building, climbing, creating, and learning through nature. Rooted in our Reggio-inspired philosophy, this program gives children space to follow their curiosity, take healthy risks, and build confidence in the natural world, rain or shine!

Session #1 Dates
Wednesday's 1:00-4:00PM
8-week program: Sept. 2 - Oct. 28
Ages 4-6 years



View Details & Sign Up:
www.heartprintsed.org

Partnership Request Letter. Outdoor Classroom all-weather apparel:

Good afternoon,

My name is Julie Stanny, and I am the Executive Director of HeartPrints Center for Early Education, a private school located in the greater Pittsburgh area.

Over the past several years, we have been developing an Outdoor Classroom program, and we are excited to officially launch our Forest School program in September 2026. As part of the program, families will be required to purchase all-weather outdoor gear for their children to ensure they are comfortable and prepared for year-round outdoor learning experiences.

I am reaching out to inquire about the possibility of establishing a partnership with your company. Specifically, we are interested in offering our families a discount code or referral partnership for outdoor gear purchases made through your website.

In exchange, your business would be featured on our website, promotional flyers, and registration materials distributed to our school community. HeartPrints serves approximately 130 children each school year, and we anticipate strong interest from our families as they prepare for the launch of the program.

HeartPrints Center for Early Education is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with the following mission:

"Our Mission: Heart Prints Center for Early Education is an organization that strives for a more peaceful world by involving young children, their families and their teachers in a process of self-directed, lifelong learning which will encourage young children to think clearly and creatively, to discover cultural and aesthetic values, to respond sensitively to others, to manage conflict respectfully, and to recognize they are members of the worldwide community."

We would love the opportunity to collaborate and support a company that aligns with our mission of outdoor exploration, environmental stewardship, and child-centered learning.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Warmly,

Julie Stanny

Executive Director

HeartPrints Center for Early Education