



WELCOME TO WAUHATCHIE FOREST SCHOOL SUMMER CAMP

Welcome to Wauhatchie Forest School Summer Camp!

This booklet provides all the important information you'll need to ensure a fun and successful experience as a Jr. Forest Explorer. Please be sure to review this information in its entirety prior to summer camp.

We are here to answer any further questions and look forward to a fantastic summer exploring in the woods!

Sincerely,

Lauren Lytle & Ashley Baker

Wauhatchie Co-Directors

Kaitlyn Agee

Director of Admissions



THE WAUHATCHIE WAY

PROGRAM GOALS AND EXPECTATIONS

At Wauhatchie Forest School, we celebrate the uniqueness in all of nature and recognize the richness that diversity offers. We strive to cultivate an environment that encourages everyone to be their authentic self - safely and respectfully - so we all may benefit. The following goals and expectations apply to both our academic and summer camp ethos.

THE THREE RULES OF THE FOREST: BE KIND TO YOURSELF, BE KIND TO OTHERS, AND BE KIND TO NATURE

- Stimulate children's innate curiosity by being close to nature.
- Curate and deliver engaging, fun, meaningful summer camp experiences that foster children's knowledge of and care for the natural environment.
- Provide young children the time, space and play to develop their fullest potential.
- Build children's on-going relationship with the land, to one another, and to themselves.
- Provide opportunities to work collaboratively to create, problem solve, support one another, and dream of a bigger and better world.
- Encourage healthy habits and lifestyles, including time spent outdoors!
- Facilitate children's risk-taking, made as safe as is reasonably possible.
- Increase motivation, self-esteem and concentration.
- Develop respect for the natural world and also respect for its dangers.
- Encourage family involvement in nature-related learning on site and at their homes.
- Instill a sense of respect for the natural world through sustainable practices such as 'Leave No Trace' and 'Pack In, Pack Out' both inside and outside of the Wauhatchie Forest.





SUMMER CAMP AT FOREST SCHOOL

Nature is our greatest teacher! This summer, your child will be fully immersed in it! Climbing trees, finding critters, creating art projects, playing in the mud, going on nature walks, exploring the creek, telling stories, and more each and every day.

Research shows that young children learn best through direct, hands-on experiences with the world around them. In this screen-filled world, we're so glad you're giving your child the gift of the great outdoors this summer. Exploring in nature helps children build resilience, physical strength, creativity, and respect for themselves, others, and the world around them!

CONTACT INFORMATION:

SCHOOL PHONE: (423) 242-3099

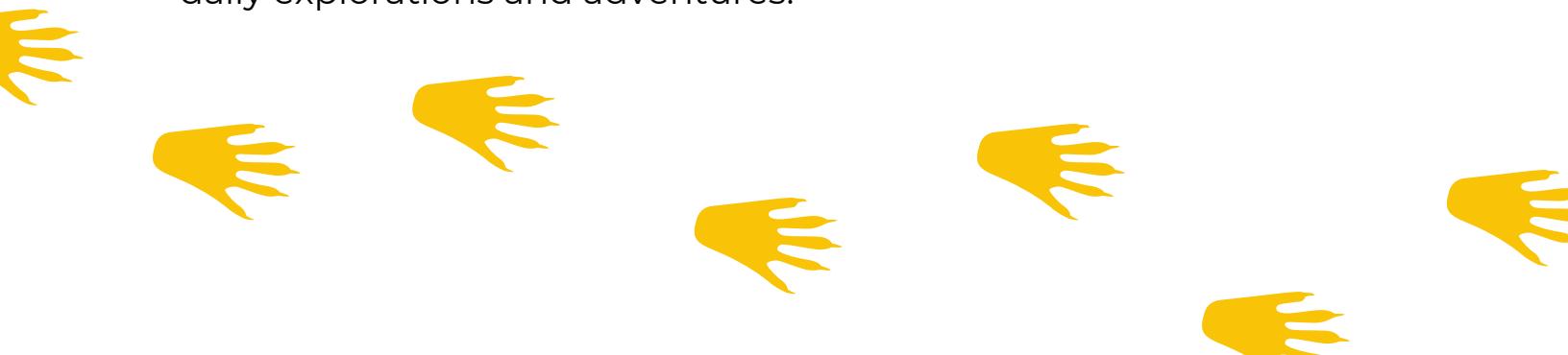
EMAIL: SUMMERCAMP@WAUHATCHIE.ORG

Wauhatchie administrators will be your primary point of contact during summer camp. If you need to let us know about an absence, late arrival, early pickup, etc. please call or text the school phone in the morning or as early in advance as possible. Please be aware that we do not respond to school-related texts after summer camp hours.

Email is the best way to reach our staff outside of camp hours. We will get back to you the next camp day. **If you have an immediate concern during the day, please call the school phone!**

ClassDojo

On the first day of camp, we will ensure each parent is set up with ClassDojo, a school-safe app to allow direct communication with camp counselors. Counselors will share updates and photos from our daily explorations and adventures!



SUMMER CAMP LOCATIONS

We're so excited to explore the woods and trails of Reflection Riding with your children at camp this summer.

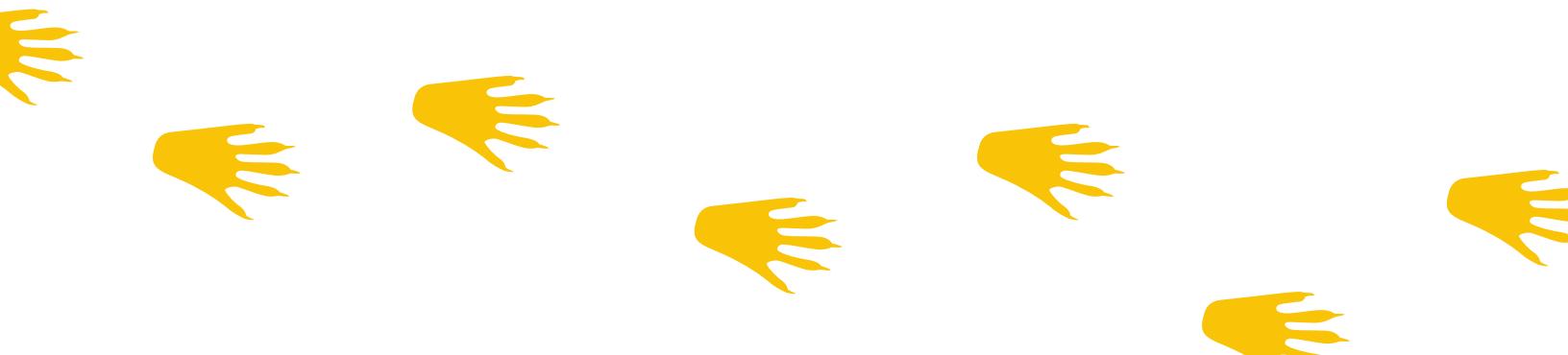
Set on 300+ breathtaking acres, Reflection Riding Arboretum and Nature Center is part public park, part nature center, part wildlands, and all outdoor learning. The campus is an extensive tapestry of native wetland, forest, and grassland ecosystems—representing a microcosm of regional biodiversity.

Reflection Riding Arboretum & Nature Center

403 GARDEN ROAD
CHATTANOOGA, TN 37419

SUMMER CAMP STAFF

Wauhatchie Forest School summer camp is led by some of our incredible forest school teachers! They bring a wealth of knowledge and experience into the forest to make summer camp safe, fun, and engaging for all of our campers. More information about our summer camp staff will be published on our website in May of 2026!



DROP OFF & PICK UP PROTOCOLS

On the **first** day of camp, campers may be parked and walked up to camp counselors for a meet and greet. We will follow a regular, rolling drop off routine the rest of the week.

After the first day, we ask that you bring your child to camp, and quickly get them out of the car. A camp counselor will be there to invite your camper to the group. This quick drop off will allow us to maximize our summer camp schedule. Click below for the campus parking map.

[Reflection Riding Parking Map](#)

DROP OFF & PICK UP TIMES:

- **9:00** Junior Forest Explorers Drop Off
- **12:00** Half Day Campers Picked Up
- **3:00** Full Day Campers Picked Up

ABSENCES AND TARDIES:

If you are running late or you know your camper will be absent for a day at camp, please let us know by calling or emailing your plans for the day as soon as possible. **School Phone: 423-242-3099**

SNACK AND LUNCH:

For all campers, please plan to send a healthy snack with your child each day. Full day campers will need a snack and a lunch!

Please ensure snacks and lunches are ready to eat, as we do not have space for warming food. Our days are very active at summer camp, so having protein packed snacks and lunches is helpful and adding a bit more food than your child would eat at home is encouraged. **Please send your child with a full water bottle each day.** We can refill it as the day goes on. We discourage juice and other sugary drinks as it attracts unwanted attention from bugs.

CLOTHING/GEAR:

campers will be involved in activities that require jumping, running, climbing, etc. Rain boots should be worn each day and we encourage packing a pair of close-toed water shoes in your child's backpack for any water activities. Campers will also need to be prepared for inclement weather with rain gear (**waterproof** rain jacket and rain pants) packed in their backpack.

Sunscreen and bug spray should be applied before attending summer camp and packed in a backpack for reapplication throughout the day. Camp counselors carry first aid kits and backup sunscreen & bug spray if needed!

Please wear clothing that is both comfortable and appropriate for getting messy. At camp, children will be romping around in the woods and we generally encourage mud & water play. We may also be painting, using markers, glue, and other crafting materials! **Be sure to send a complete change of labeled clothing in your child's backpack each day.**

WHAT TO WEAR?

- Quick dry shirt & shorts that can get dirty!
- Rain boots and socks
- Sun hat (optional)
- Sunscreen
- Bug repellent



WHAT TO BRING TO CAMP

- Smiles!
- Backpack with external water bottle pocket
- Full water bottle
- Rain jacket and rain pants
- Full change of clothes labeled with your child's name (no denim or cotton)
- Sunscreen
- Bug repellent
- Healthy snack
- Healthy lunch
- Hand Sanitizer (optional)
- Close toed water shoes (optional)
- Bandana (optional)

*** Please put your child's name on all items.*



WHAT NOT TO BRING TO CAMP

- Clothes or shoes that you don't want to get dirty
- Toys
- Personal knives or tools
- Candy, sugary snacks
- Digital devices (watches, phones, etc.)

REGISTRATION/PAYMENTS:

All camp payments must be paid in full upon registration and are non-refundable. The cost of half day summer camp is \$200/week and the cost for full day camp is \$325/week.

If you have questions about summer camp registration or payments, please contact Kaitlyn Agee at summercamp@wauhatchie.org or via phone at (423) 708-4824.

DONATIONS:

Donations to Wauhatchie Forest School are always greatly appreciated. We operate as a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to spreading the mission of environmental education to children ages 3-10. Our [Grow Fund](#) aims to provide scholarship funding and a forest school experience for *all* children regardless of income.

FOREST SCHOOL:

We're so glad you've chosen to join us for our Jr. Forest Explorers camp this summer! If this sort of learning environment is perfect for your adventure-loving child, check out our full school year forest programs for campers ages 3-11.

[Click here to learn more about our Forest Preschool, Jr. Kindergarten, and K-5 programs.](#)

