



Wild Roots Protocols

Summer 2021

Last updated June 15, 2021

Wild Roots Programs offer 100% outdoor, nature-based programming for children 3 to 7 years old, with 23 years of experience. Community safety and well being is our top priority.

Program Design and Operation

Groupings, Group Size, and Ratios

Locations

Social Distancing

Adults

Children

Hygiene

Hand washing and sanitizing supplies & protocols

No shared materials

No shared materials or tools will be provided throughout the program.

Any materials provided will be exclusively for use by individual children (i.e. sandpaper squares, beads to be used in nest, etc.).

Food and water

Children will bring their own food from home, only.

Personal Belongings

First Aid Protocols

Preparation and Monitoring

Training Staff

Program Protocols

Additional Training

Preparing Parents

Health Monitoring

Closure



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Program Design and Operation

Locations

Locations are chosen to meet the following criteria:

- Reduce impact on any one space, avoid congestion.
- Enough space for children to play in wide open, spread out areas, with open free flow of air.
- Parking, drop off, and pick up areas have enough space to prevent bottlenecks/congestion of people attending our programs and other community members using the space.
- Outdoor setting that allows plenty of space for community members to use open spaces and keeps our groups of children easily out of their way, and vice versa.

Groupings, Group Size, and Ratios

- Siblings and children who share a household will be kept in the same groups whenever possible.
- Groups/Classes will be maintained together as stable groups.
- Teaching staff will remain with same group; 12 children maximum per group with 2 to 3 teaching staff

Social Distancing and Masks Wearing

We recognize the importance of physical distancing to avoid and/or reduce transmission and spread of SARS-CoV-2. Further, we recognize that outdoor transmission is extremely rare. The care of young children often requires close contact with caregiving adults and our protocols are focused primarily on these points of close and sustained contact.



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Adults

- Drop off and Pick Up
 - Reduce congestion
 - Parents and Staff will adhere to physical distancing where appropriate. Where physical distance is possible, masks may not be necessary.
 - Parents and Staff will wear masks at drop off/pick up, when in sustained close contact with others.

- Mask wearing; general
 - Teachers will wear their masks:
 - When in close, sustained contact with a child or children (e.g. changing clothes, comforting, administering first aid, etc.)
 - When preparing/handling food

Children

While location and programming is designed to provide maximum opportunity for open physical space, young children have unique social/emotional, as well as pragmatic, physical needs that preclude strict physical distancing with their caregivers. We have developed the following protocols in an attempt to address all of these needs to the best of our ability.

- Locations chosen for maximum open space (away from trails/spaces frequented by other members of the community).
- Each child will be provided an individual “nest,”
 - Clearly defined individual space, made of sticks, grasses, etc. keeping some distance between nests.
- Said “nests will serve the following functions:
 - A place for children to keep personal belongings (i.e. backpacks)
 - A place to physically be during group activities such as circle, story times, and meals.



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Hygiene

Hand washing and sanitizing supplies & protocols

- Staff will have ample hand washing supplies on hand.
- Each staff member will carry hand sanitizer.
- Staff will teach, model, and reinforce handwashing skills.
- When handling said supplies, staff will sanitize hands before .
- When handling said supplies, staff will sanitize supplies and hands after use.
- Hands will be washed or sanitized before and after physically assisting a child with any needs that require direct contact with a child or their belongings.
- Hands will be washed before and after eating.
- Hands will be washed after bathrooming.
- Hands will be washed after coughing, sneezing, nose wiping, or wiping of tears.

Mask wearing

Children (ages 2 ½ to 6 yr. old) will not be required to wear masks throughout the day, generally speaking. We intend to work with the masks in a playful and relaxed manner, giving the children the example and practice of using masks as a simple act of community care.

- Children will need to have a mask with them at summer camp
- Children will be asked to wear a mask in any situation that would cause us to be in a tight group for a period of time, or in any situation that requires us to be in close contact with others outside of our cohort. (We do not anticipate such events, and work actively to avoid them, but intend to be prepared in the event that avoiding such a situation becomes impossible for any reason.)



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Food and water

- Food will be provided by Wild Roots for a mid-morning snack.
 - Food will be handled after washing hands thoroughly, and while wearing a mask.
 - Children will bring their own lunch from home
 - Kept in their backpack, in “nests”
 - Sharing of food will be prohibited
 - Any uneaten food, or food waste, will be kept in individual child’s food containers
- Children will bring their own water bottles.
 - Staff will have extra water to refill children’s bottles
 - Whenever possible, children will be asked to open and hold their own bottles for staff to refill.

Personal Belongings

- Clearly labeled, personal use items only
 - Backpack
 - Food
 - Water bottle
 - Change of clothes
 - Mask
- Children should not bring additional items from home to camp, eg. toys, books, etc.

First Aid Protocols

- If a child requires first aid, staff will provide proper administration.
- Immediately following the administration of first aid, staff and child will wash hands, and any area that has been in contact with another person.
- Used first aid materials will be kept in a sealed plastic bag and disposed of properly at the end of the program day.



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Preparation and Monitoring

Training Staff

Staff will be trained in the following areas:

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- Record keeping and management
- Drop off and pick up policies
- Basic health screening
- Enhanced hygiene protocols
- Temperature readings for children
- Policy and procedure in case of child showing symptoms during program

Additional Training

- At least one member of program staff will have completed contact tracing training.

<https://www.coursera.org/learn/covid-19-contact-tracing?edocomorp=covid-19-contact-tracing>

Preparing Parents

- Protocols and requirements in writing; received and signed by parents/guardians.



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Health Monitoring

- Daily: Check for signs and symptoms - Teaching staff will screen all staff, participants, and families by asking all parents/guardians about any symptoms or signs of illness within the last 24 hours that they, or someone in their homes, might have.
- Staff will take temperatures of all children at drop off with a no touch forehead thermometer.
- As a daily best practice, staff will document and track all known incidents of possible exposure to COVID-19 and keep these records for 30 days.
- Staff are encouraged to stay home with sick pay if they are feeling sick.
- Substitute staff readily available if a teaching staff member becomes ill.
- If a child shows any signs or symptoms throughout the day, that child will be kept physically separate from the group, the child's caregiver will be called, and the child will be immediately sent home.
- If anyone in a child or teaching staff's household tests positive for COVID, said child and/or staff will not return until 14 days of quarantine have passed.
- Contact tracing will be implemented based on the staff notes and family information.
- If a child or staff member tests positive, the class cohort will close until such time that the period of quarantine for exposed individuals and the period of required isolation ends.
- If a child or staff member has a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher, that individual will remain home. All parents will be notified (individual privacy maintained).
- Should an exclusion occur based on signs and symptoms, such as fever, families in that cohort will be asked to take care to avoid contact within the community outside of the cohort.



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- RETURNING AFTER ILLNESS
 - Any signs and/or symptoms for which COVID 19 can not be ruled out will require the individual to abstain from attendance at Wild Roots until one of the following criteria are met:
 - Individual has isolated for 10 days, and has had 3 days of consistently improving symptoms in that time (including being fever free for at least 24 hours without fever reducing medications, if a fever has been present).
 - Individual has had a COVID 19 test with a negative result and has experienced consistently improving symptoms, and is healthy enough to return to school.
 - The possibility of COVID 19 has been ruled out by a doctor, and an individual has experienced consistently improving symptoms, and is healthy enough to return to school.
 - Doctor's note must be provided.

Closure

- If at any time the County moves back into a shelter at home order, programs will close immediately.
- If a child or teaching staff tests positive for COVID-19, that group will be notified and closed for a period of quarantine immediately.
- In the event that Public Health officials recommend a change in protocols or closure, we will work closely to ensure that community health and well being are a top priority.