**Flatwoods Forest School Parent Guide**

**Location**:

We are privileged to host our Nature Camps at the Florida Agricultural Museum located at 7900 N Old Kings Rd, Palm Coast, FL 32137. The Ag Museum encompasses 460 acres and is a living history museum. There are many incredible activities to take part of at the museum and we encourage you to explore the living history elements in addition to the Forest School. Flatwoods Forest School will be focused on exploring the raw nature surrounding the museum, which includes 60 acres of preservation land set aside for Long Leaf Pine habitat.

**Dates and Times:**

Nature camps take place from 10am-3pm, the third Sunday of the month, except April will be 2nd Sunday due to Easter.

September 16th, 2018

October 21st, 2018

November 18th, 2018

January 20th, 2019

February 17th, 2019

March 17th, 2019

April 14th, 2019

May 19th, 2019

**Drop Off and Pick Up:**

Students may be dropped off at camp no earlier than 9:45am and picked up no later than 3:00pm. Use GPS directions to the Florida Ag Museum and once inside the museum you will see arrows directing you to the Forest School drop off location.

**Fee Structure:**

$40 per child per session. 10% discount for siblings. 5% discount if paid in full for duration of the program. Please make checks payable to Flatwoods Forest School.

**Ages:**

We invite students ages 4-9 to our Forest School. Whole group activities will take place as well as break off sessions for ages 4-6 and 7-9. We will have 4 staff on premises at all times.

**Environmental Hazards:**

Environmental hazards including mosquitoes, ticks, snakes and poisonous plants have the potential to be a threat to a child’s safety. All of our staff are trained on how to identify and treat symptoms resulting from contact with poisonous plants, animal or insect bites. All nature walks will be walked in a “sandwich”, 1 staff in the front and 1 staff in the rear, and regular head counts will take place.

**Emergency Contact:**

In case of emergency, the emergency contact indicated on Flatwoods Forest School Registration Form will be contacted by the school in order of contact priority stated by parents/guardians.

**Behavior Guidelines**

We respect each child’s emotional needs and learning styles. We always use compassionate, respectful language especially when children experience challenging times. We give children the space to express themselves, and if needed we invite them to go to a calm, quiet area so that they can calm down. Teachers will never use their hands on a child in a rough manner and will be patient and nurturing with children.

Behavior Principles; Respect all life, respect diversity, respect all people, respect the learning environment, use things with care, enjoy learning, help other’s learn, be prepared.

**Inclement Weather:**

At Flatwoods Forest School, we continue outdoor programming rain or shine. Nature and outdoor learning opportunities allow children to experience the environment under a variety of conditions. Drizzle or light rain will not hamper most programs. When severe weather such as thunderstorms, windstorms, very hot and very cold weather are in the vicinity, outdoor programs will proceed to indoor facilities. Please ensure your child is prepared for all weather conditions by packing appropriate clothing for them each day. In the event of extreme weather that permits school closures parents will be notified by 9AM.

**What to bring:**

Please send your child with a small backpack they can manage to carry on their own. The backpack should have the following items:

* Small hand towel for drying hands from our outdoor hand washing station
* Extra set of clothing in case of puddle or pee accidents, including underwear, bottoms, tops, socks - labeled with your child’s name
* Water bottle
* Lunch with napkin (cloth preferably)
* Bug Repellent of parent’s choice that has been put on child before drop off.
* Sunscreen of parent’s choice that has been put on child before drop off.

**What to wear:**

When your child is spending extended periods of time outdoors, comfort is very important. Good clothing makes the difference between a child who is engaged with the environment and a child who is uncomfortable and unhappy. Please send your child with closed toed shoes. Forest School staff will assess whether children are dressed appropriately when they are dropped off.

**When it is rainy, please send your child in layers. We recommend:**

 • As an inner layer, fleece or natural fabrics such as wool or silk. The fabric should wick moisture away from the skin and provide a warm, breathable layer

• Outer shell of waterproof and windproof clothing, including a rain jacket and rain pants.

• For the feet, we recommend neoprene such as Bogs or Kamiks. Alternatively, your child can wear waterproof boots.

• Make sure that your child has a waterproof hat that covers their ears.

**When it is cold, please add:**

• Warm and waterproof gloves that slip on and off easily.

• An extra pair of warm gloves and warm socks in your child’s bag

**When it is warm, please wear:**

• A light cotton, silk or hemp long-sleeved shirt.

• Long, durable pants

• Long, light coloured socks that pants can be tucked into

• A sun hat

• Running or hiking shoes

• Sun protection

**Contacts:**

**flatwoodsforestschool@gmail.com**

**Main phone number- 904-669-6477**

**Teachers:**

Michele Pellicer – 904-669-6477

Missy Clauson – 610-730-4381

Elle Keathley – 530-339-1416

Kimberly Clauson – 850-420-3069

**www.flatwoodsforestschool.com**

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