



Introductory Packet Spring 2026

Who are we?

Schoolhouse in the Woods is an enrichment program for home-schooled students. Our weekly and bimonthly programs serve children, ages six through seventeen, at Camp Winona in DeLeon Springs, and most recently Camp Thunderbird in Apopka, Florida.

Through a Montessori philosophy, we teach lost skills, which are skills that much of humanity has left behind. Children and teens learn a foundational skill-set that will serve them no matter what life throws their way! At Schoolhouse in the Woods, our lost skills program includes foraging, archery, sailing, weaving, hand sewing and more.

What is Montessori?

The Montessori Method is an alternative method of education that was created by Italy's first female medical doctor, Maria Montessori, in the early 1900s. The method focuses on hands-on learning in an environment that is aesthetically and scientifically prepared for children. Children have choices throughout the day regarding what lessons they will complete. Dr. Montessori taught that the child has an inner guide which leads the child to develop into the man he will become. Our job, as teachers and parents, is to prepare the environment for success, and then give the child the freedom to be led by their inner guide. This does not mean we allow the child to participate in destructive behaviors, however we allow him to engage in behaviors that are both helpful and guide their spirit.



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Meet Our Founder:



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Ms. Elle is the founder of Schoolhouse in the Woods, and a Montessori educator who specializes in teaching lost skills. Since she was age five, she has known that education would be her life's work. She believes the children are our future, and in our turbulent world, they need support to develop into thriving humans on our planet. Her hobbies are gardening, being on the water, nature exploration, traveling, and spending time with her family. She loves her work at Schoolhouse in the Woods, and is passionate about helping children to reach their highest potential!



Our "Why":

Schoolhouse in the Woods arose out of a great need for enriching programs for home-schooled students. With the rise of homeschooling as a major educational format, students needed a place to go where

they could meet friends, learn new skills, and form community. Our community needed a program that enriched children's lives and was wholehearted in its approach.

Our Vision: We see capable, competent, and communicative children becoming adults who will create a world that is sustainable and works for the benefit of all, while not forsaking the individual. We see these adults working together using their hearts, minds, and bodies to move us into a greater world.

Our Mission: At Schoolhouse in the Woods we believe each child has a unique purpose here on Earth. We aim to assist in the discovery of this special gift and provide ways to nurture it, which will ultimately benefit all of humanity. To accomplish our goal we teach lost skills education through a lens of Montessori philosophy.



Our Beliefs:

1. We believe education should focus on foundations, with a goal of creating well-rounded individuals who grow into independent beings.
2. We believe each child has a unique gift, as parents and educators, our job is to find and nurture that gift.
3. We believe time spent in nature is essential to a healthy childhood.
4. We believe mixed-age groups mimic real life social structures and encourage positive relationships.
5. We believe that education should endeavor to spark a flame within the child that will continue to burn throughout his lifetime.
6. We believe outward manifestations are reflective of the child's inner life. We aim to observe the behavior in order to understand root causes of the child's actions.
7. We believe in allowing children to develop freely, within the limits of the good, encouraging them in those pursuits which are helpful to their growth.
8. We believe that children who fall in love with the natural world will want to protect it when they're older. This connection will create a foundation from which they will base their adult decisions.
9. We believe that through peace education we can depart from ideology coming from corrupt political/corporate institutions of today.



Our Five Pillars of Success:

Independence	Foundations	Natural Environment	Moral Courage	Community
<p>Independent children are vital to the success of our world. Our lessons are designed to promote a child's independence, sense of order, coordination, and concentration.</p>	<p>Through a curriculum based on foundations children learn skills which equip them for success, no matter what may life bring!</p>	<p>We understand the value of time spent in nature, which is why we are located there! Children need time to connect with the natural world so that</p>	<p>In today's world so much is done for the child, which does not allow for the building of confidence and character. Moral Courage is</p>	<p>Our environment fosters connection to our community. Children need these connections to develop strong and meaningful relationships.</p>

they can
grow into
beings who
respect it.

developed
through real
life
experiences,
storytelling,
and modeling.



Daily Rhythm

10:00-10:40 - Work Cycle (Montessori materials, handwork, play-based learning)

10:40- 10:45 - Clean Up/Bathroom

10:45-11:20- Nature Walk

11:20-11:25 - Bathroom/Hand-washing

11:25- 11:55 - Circle (Lesson, Storytelling, Community Building)
11:55-12:00 - Bathroom/Line Up
12:00-12:30 - Lunch
12:30-12:40 - Bathroom/Hand Washing
12:40- 1:40 Lost Skill
1:40- 2:00 Relaxed Choices/Free Play

Daily Rhythm in Detail

Work Cycle 10:00-10:40

6-12 Classes: When the children come in each morning, our environment is set up with many different activities or "works". These include handwork activities, science works (microscope, fossils, etc), language works, puzzles, building materials (Lincoln Logs, blocks, Magna Tiles), and more.

The teen work cycle focuses on collaborative learning. Students are given a lesson to complete each class. Topics include science, art, geography, community, and are collaborative in nature.

Nature Walk 10:45- 11:30

This is a time for connecting to our Earth and each other. The students laugh, talk, run, walk, and play in nature. For safety, nature

walks are taken in a "sandwich". One teacher is at the front, the other at the back, and the children in the middle.

Lunch 12:00-12:30

Lunch is a favorite at Schoolhouse in the Woods! We eat outside unless the weather is rainy or stormy. The students eat together, connecting and getting to know one another.

Interestingly, the best conversations seem to be had at mealtime!

After lunch boxes are packed up, they typically play or explore together.

Lost Skill 12:40-1:40

Lost Skills are the core of our program. They are broken into three categories:

1. Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
2. Nature-based Learning
3. Self-sovereignty

Some Lost Skills that we teach are archery, gardening, herbal medicine, finger-knitting, fire building, and so much more!

Relaxed Choices 1:40- 2:00

This is our wind down time. The students play games, relax, play Foosball, chat, draw, paint, and more.



Harvest Moon (Weekly Tuesdays ages 6-12) Spring 2026 Class Schedule

January 13	Forest Team Games
January 20	Herbal Medicine (Fire Cider)
January 27	Woodworking Intro (Try Stick)
February 3	Gardening
February 10	Woodworking (Spoon Carving)
February 17	Jam Making

February 24	Aquatic Biology with Guest Instructor
March 3	Basket Weaving
March 10	Archery
March 17	No Class (Spring Break)
March 24	Canoeing
March 31 Nature's Needles	Pine Needle Crafting with Guest Instructor from
April 7 Outdoor Education	Blacksmithing with Guest Instructor from Cypress River
April 14	Low Ropes Course
April 21	Seminole Indians
April 28	Old-Fashioned Games
May 5	Engineering
May 12	Swim
May 19	Make up day (if needed)

Schedule subject to change based on the needs of the Schoolhouse.



Emerald Spring (Weekly Thursdays ages 6-12) Spring 2026 Class Schedule

January 15	Forest Team Games
January 22	Herbal Medicine (Fire Cider)
January 29	Woodworking Intro (Try Stick)
February 5	Gardening
February 12	Woodworking (Spoon Carving)
February 19	Jam Making
February 26	Aquatic Biology with Guest Instructor
March 5	Basket Weaving
March 12	Archery
March 19	No Class (Spring Break)
March 26	Canoeing

April 2 Nature's Needles	Pine Needle Crafting with Guest Instructor from
April 9 Outdoor Education	Blacksmithing with Guest Instructor from Cypress River
April 16	Low Ropes Course
April 23	Seminole Indians
April 30	Old-Fashioned Games
May 7	Engineering
May 14	Swim
May 21	Make-up day (if needed)

Schedule subject to change based on the needs of the Schoolhouse.



Our Offerings:

There are two options for registration, one offering is to register for only the 2026 Spring Season. Our other offering is to register for both 2026 Spring Season and 2026 Fall Season.

**Harvest Moon: Tuesdays
Program: 10 AM- 2 PM, ages 6-12**

**2026 Spring Season:
\$240 per month tuition
\$275 Non Refundable Registration and Materials Fee
\$25 Schoolhouse t-shirt**

2026 Spring Season + 2026 Fall Season:
\$220 per month tuition
\$450 Non Refundable Registration and Materials Fee
\$25 Schoolhouse t-shirt

Emerald Spring: Thursdays
Program: 10 AM-2 PM, ages 6-12

2026 Spring Season:
\$240 per month tuition
\$275 Non Refundable Registration and Materials Fee
\$25 Schoolhouse t-shirt

2026 Spring Season + 2026 Fall Season:
\$220 per month tuition
\$450 Non Refundable Registration and Materials Fee
\$25 Schoolhouse t-shirt



Steps to Enrollment

1. Complete our enrollment form here:
<https://links.schoolhouseoffice.com/widget/form/67I5oTQ6cxDFznvQgszM?notrack=true>
2. We will send our welcome email with your child's schedule and direct pay instructions (if using) attached.
3. We will send our Parent Guide and paperwork through Sign Now. This outlines our program necessities, including potential hazards, behavior management, and payment policies.
4. Sign and return all forms.
5. Pay registration invoice or follow instructions for direct pay through the EMA Portal.
6. Your child is enrolled with Schoolhouse in the Woods!