

# Schoolhouse of Wonder

SUMMER 2023

## CAMP HANDBOOK



---

An update for an extraordinary summer

---

# MISSION & VALUES

## Overview

Schoolhouse of Wonder is a place where everyone can play, learn, and grow toward being their best selves. Our team of driven and talented mentors loves learning together with children ages 3-17 through our outdoor camps, field trips, and leadership training.

## Diversity & Inclusion

At Schoolhouse of Wonder, we celebrate individuality. Different is just different. We are committed to creating an inclusive environment where folks feel welcome to share their authentic selves. We support and celebrate our diverse community members of all races, genders, ages, religions, and identities. We commit to learning how and working to use inclusive language (including pronouns), challenge discrimination and stereotypes, and advocate for positive change in our organization and all of its programs.

## Mission

Schoolhouse of Wonder creates kind, curious, and confident kids through nature-based, outdoor adventures.

## Values

- We model and teach self-awareness and empathy.
- We celebrate individuality; different is just different.
- Everyone deserves to be witnessed, heard, and respected.
- In nature, we're all students.
- Life should be filled with adventures and a sense of wonder.
- We send every kid home dirty, tired, and happy.





# SUMMER CAMP HOURS

**CAMP HOURS**  
9:00a - 5:00p

**DROP OFF**  
**Durham & Orange**  
8:00a - 9:00a

**Wake**  
8:15a - 9:00a

**PICK UP**  
**5-6 year-olds**  
3:00p - 3:30p

**Aftercare**  
5:00p - 5:30p

**PICK UP**  
**7-9 year-olds &  
10-12 year-olds**  
5:00p - 5:30p  
**Optional Early Pick up**  
3:00p - 3:30p

## FAMILY CIRCLE

Friends and family are invited to celebrate the week with us at Family Circle on Friday afternoons. Family Circle starts at 2:45 p.m. for campers who get picked up at the 3:00 p.m. or 4:45 p.m. for campers at the 5:00 p.m. pick-up time.

## CAMP STORE

We have some awesome new stuff in our camp store this summer including T-shirts, whittling knives, water bottles, turtle necklaces, and more! Camp store will be available Friday afternoons after Family Circle.

## PHOTOS & COMMUNICATION

We want to share how much fun we're all having at camp!

- We routinely post photos on Facebook and Instagram.
- We send out Conversation Starters via email to help you learn more about your child's experiences and a photo gallery of the full adventure (after each week of camp).
- You must grant Photo Permission for pictures of your child to be included. Images of your child will not include their name. Please update the information in your account according to your wishes.



# WHAT TO BRING TO CAMP

**Water bottle:** 16 oz. or larger, we'll refill during the day

**Comfortable shoes** that can get a little dirty

**Water gear** like a swimsuit or clothes that can get wet, a small towel, and shoes for water time. Examples include Keens, Crocs, or old sneakers. No flip-flops.

Please send clothes and shoes that your camper can change with minimal assistance.

**Knives are optional for 7-12 year olds:** A folding lockable blade or fixed blade 4" or less. All fixed blade knives must be stored in a protective sheath. (Knives are NOT allowed for 5-6 year olds. Whittling tools will be provided for campers without knives.)

## FOOD

**Lunch:** Please send a packed lunch with your camper each day that does not require refrigeration or heating. Campers often eat more at camp than at school. Please pack a little extra food.

**Snacks:** Please send two snacks each day.

Because we don't share food, nuts are ok to bring!

**Weather-appropriate clothes** plus a change of clothes

**Sunscreen:** We recommend broad-spectrum with SPF 15 or higher. We strongly discourage the use of aerosol products.

**Insect repellent:** We encourage you to select an insect repellent that deters ticks, mosquitoes, and chiggers: Suggested items. (We strongly discourage the use of aerosol products and products combining sunscreen and insect repellent.)

**Masks** are optional, but we ask that you send one just in case it is needed.

Please start each day with sunscreen & insect repellent on!

## MEDICATIONS

Campers are not allowed to self-administer any medications. We will sign in all medications on the first day of camp and keep them the whole week. Medications must be in original packaging with dosage instructions.



# LEAVE IT AT HOME

This includes any device capable of making a call.

## Man-made Entertainment like:

- Toys
- Electronics
- Sports or Gaming Equipment
- Money
- Books
- Playing cards and trading cards
- Valuables

*Don't send anything that will be a big deal if it gets muddy, dropped in a creek, or even lost.*

**Smart watches & cell phones, like other electronics, are not allowed at camp for any age camper.**

If you need to reach your camper please call the Site Manager at the number below:

Durham: (984) 710-2620  
Wake AMP: (984) 710-2709  
Wake WP: (984) 227-2323  
Orange: (984) 710-2708

# TIPS FROM THE PROS

**Overloaded Bags:** Your child will be carrying their backpack for a good part of the day! A heavy or over-stuffed bag can create an unnecessary challenge to carrying or independently packing their bag.

**Backpacks:** Many school backpacks are fine for our programs. Please don't send backpacks with string or rope straps. A comfortable backpack (size and style) will make for a better day.

**Gross Lunchboxes:** Avoid a mess! Pack an extra plastic zip-top bag for lunch trash. This can keep messy or unfinished food from becoming an unwelcome surprise. Send small, resealable drinks instead of juice boxes or pouches that aren't always finished in one sitting.

**Footwear:** Many kids like wearing their water shoes (with or without socks) all day if they're comfortable for walking. If they don't arrive in water shoes, please send some shoes that can get wet.

**Water Gear:** Some kids prefer to arrive in water gear and change into dry clothes after water time.

---

# GENERAL CAMP POLICIES



## CAMPER SAFETY

Physical and emotional safety is always our first priority.

We ensure quality programs through:

- Competitive hiring practices that result in a dedicated, responsible, and caring team of mentors.
- All staff maintain First Aid and CPR certifications, with many earning additional certifications.
- Thorough background checks on all staff.
- Extensive staff training on child development, behavior management, emergency response, bullying prevention, and more.
- Low camper-to-staff ratios.
- Educating campers about common hazards in the camp environment (e.g. poison ivy, biting/stinging insects, snakes, ticks).
- An organizational emphasis on engagement that places our experienced staff right next to your child while they explore, learn, and grow.

## WATER SAFETY

Schoolhouse of Wonder does not allow swimming; however, campers frequently have an opportunity to wade in the river and creeks (weather permitting). Firm, clear boundaries and water safety rules will be explained to campers at the outset of water time each day.

While wading, campers will always:

- Be in full sight of counselors.
- Be in water that is not deeper than their navel.
- Wear shoes.

Durham Location: Campers in the 7-9 and 10-12 camps occasionally have the opportunity to float in deeper water. A securely fastened Personal Flotation Device (life jacket) must be worn any time a camper is in water above their navel.





# COVID POLICIES

Guidance on COVID practices can change. Please stay up to date by visiting [COVID-19 Precautions](#) and [Program Policies](#) on our website.

---

## MASKS

We encourage masking as an extra precaution, but we do not require masks while outdoors or indoors (unless someone is identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19).

---

## VACCINATION

We encourage all people who are eligible to be vaccinated to do so. This is the best way to protect yourself and the community from the most severe symptoms of COVID-19. While all Schoolhouse staff are required to be up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations, we do not require campers to be vaccinated.

---

## CLEANLINESS

Hand sanitizing is encouraged, including before eating. Food sharing is not allowed, except for siblings.

---

## FEELING SICK?

We'll be asking parents to partner with us in keeping campers home if they show any symptoms of COVID-19, have a positive diagnosis, or a just plain sick.

---

# DROP OFF AND PICK UP

**Double-check your Ultracamp account to update the approved pick-up people before your camper's week starts!**

All campers must be signed in and out of camp. Schoolhouse of Wonder requires anyone picking up a child to be listed in advance, preferably through your online account.

**Drop off is between 8:00a and 9:00a in Durham & Orange; 8:15a and 9:00a in Wake.** All camp groups leave the drop-off areas promptly at 9:00a. Sending staff to meet late campers creates significant challenges and may negatively impact the entire group.

**Regular pick-up for 5-6 year olds is between 3:00p and 3:30p.**

**Pick up for 5-6 year olds in Aftercare and 7-9 / 10-12 year olds is between 5:00p and 5:30p.** With advanced notice, any child can be picked up at the 3:00p to 3:30p time. Alternate pick-ups outside of that time require advanced Site Manager approval.

---

**Durham—West Point on the Eno:** Enter the park to the right and take your first left. Drop off is at the first "upper" parking lot,

**Orange—Brumley Forest:** Drop off and pick up are in the cul-de-sac straight ahead on the paved road.

**Wake—Umstead Amphitheater:** Drop off and pick up are at the bulletin board near the bathrooms at the main parking lot of the I-40 Reedy Creek entrance.

**Wake - Umstead Whispering Pines:** Drop off and pick up are at the Whispering Pines camp location. To reach Whispering Pines, turn right onto the road with the brown barricade. The park staff have given us permission to carefully pass on the left side of the barricade. Please, drive slowly and carefully. About 1/3 of a mile on your right will be a small A-frame Schoolhouse of Wonder sign. Turn right on to Whispering Pines Road and drive approximately 1/2 mile. Our Drop Off and Pick Up locations are at the end of this gravel road.





# RAINY DAYS

---

## **DURHAM**

In case of inclement weather, pick up may be moved to either of the picnic shelters or other sheltered areas near the loop. We will have staff at the upper parking lot area to let you know where your camper's pick-up area is.

---

## **WAKE - AMPHITHEATER**

In case of inclement weather, pick up may be at Shelter #2 instead of the typical pick-up area.

---

## **WAKE - WHISPERING PINES**

In case of inclement weather, we will have staff at the end of the Whispering Pines road to direct you to your camper's pick-up spot.

---

## **ORANGE**

In case of inclement weather, the pick-up area may be located near the typical drop-off areas or at the barn. If pick-up is moved to the barn, we will contact all parents in advance and have a staff member available at the regular area to provide any additional directions.

---

---

## OUR CAMP GUARANTEE

# Dirty, Tired, Happy or your money back.

**We will return your child dirty, tired, and happy - or we will refund your child's remaining camp registration.**

Our camps present a unique opportunity for children to grow and learn. While we're confident and proud of our camps, we realize that no one community is a perfect fit for every child. So we offer you our Dirty, Tired, Happy Guarantee to build trust. We don't know a better way to demonstrate the confidence we have in our program than by putting our money where our mouth is.

If you and your child decide that our camp is not the right fit and choose to not return, we'll refund your camp registration for the remaining days of the camp week.

To obtain a refund under our Dirty, Tired, Happy Guarantee, all you have to do is send us a written request within a week stating that our camp is not a good fit for your child and that you would like a refund for the remaining days of the camp week. It's that simple. Guaranteed.

Our Dirty, Tired, Happy Guarantee provides a prorated tuition refund to any child departing before the conclusion of their registered camp, with the exception of those who have been asked not to return for inappropriate behavior. We will take your tuition payment and divide by the number of camp days for a daily rate, multiply by the number of days your child will not be attending, and process a refund to the credit card with which you paid for camp. And that's a promise.

We recognize that we might not be the right fit for your camper now, but as they grow and change, we may be a great fit in the future. Any camper who receives a Dirty, Tired, Happy refund is welcome to give camp another try at least one year (or more) after the refund.