



Children's Equipment List

For an outdoor program like ours, where we spend our days outside no matter what the weather or season, childrens' gear is absolutely essential to keeping everyone safe, dry, and happy. As a staff, we've taken time to pull together a list of necessary items that your little one will need for Forest Friends. In some categories (prefaced with "**"), we prefer that you choose specific brands--this is purely for the brands' durability and good experiences/reputation in Forest Friends and other nature-based preschools. If you have trouble finding these brands, please let us know.

We have put links to Amazon below, but there are other great options as well (for example, REI has an outlet and used gear section on its website). [Here's a list of several websites](#) that may have discounted prices on any gear you need!

We don't want the financial burden of any of these items to be a barrier to participants staying safe and enjoying the program. If you need financial assistance for any of these items, please let us know at ForestFriends@WLFarm.org.

A few reminders for gear:

- Please label all gear.
- Make sure your child's only wearing clothing you're comfortable with them getting dirty!
- Please make sure all clothing is properly fitting.
- When buying boots, please consider how they'll fit with thick, wool socks. Boots that are too small restrict blood flow and lead to cold feet!

Fall and Spring Gear:

- Secure, close-toed shoes (sneakers or hiking boots are great). No open-toed shoes, please.
- **Boots (waterproof). Linked boots are fully waterproof AND insulated, so they should be good for all seasons (*please select one of the brands below*).
 - [Bog Boots](#) (waterproof and insulated)
 - [Kamik](#) (waterproof and insulated)
- Socks that can be pulled over pants (for tick prevention)
 - Wool socks recommended if it's below 50 F
- Pants (help prevent ticks, poison ivy, and other minor injuries)
- T-shirt with layers
- Fleece pullover or warm sweater
- **Waterproof outerwear (*please select one of the brands below*)
 - [Muddy Buddy Tuffo](#)
 - [OAKIWear](#)
 - [Jan and Jul](#)



- Sun Hat
- Backpack
- Sunscreen
- Bug spray

Additional Gear for Winter:

- Wool socks, at least 50% wool (multiple pairs on cold days)
 - **No cotton socks, please.**
- Base Layer: wool, silk, or poly long underwear top and bottom. Please avoid cotton base layers.
- Mid-Layer: long-sleeved wool or fleece sweater. For extra cold days wear fleece pants and extra mittens or gloves.
- Outer Layer: Waterproof coat with hood, insulated waterproof snow pants, and insulated waterproof mittens
 - Layers are great since heavy winter jackets are shed quite quickly once the play starts!
- Waterproof mittens. These are one of the most important things in the winter.
- Warm hat
- Neck warmer

Items for children's backpacks: (Staff will communicate changes according to season (i.e., extra mittens/gloves and insulated water bottle with warm drink in winter, etc.)

- Two masks in ziploc bag
- Hand sanitizer
- Easy-to-open water bottle with secure top
- Sunscreen
- Extra socks
- Child-safe natural bug salve or spray

In case any items get dirty or wet, we're asking for families to send along an extra bag including the following. Items should be brought in at the start of the program and can remain in the classroom. Please label bags.

- Extra all-weather shoes (something sturdy)
- Extra socks (at least 2 pairs)
- Sweater/sweatshirt/fleece
- Shirt/t-shirt
- Hat for warm months, hat for cold months
- Scarf
- Gloves