



## Northwoods Forest School: What We Offer and Our Role

### Supporting Your Family's Educational Journey

At Northwoods Forest School, our mission is to provide a supportive, enriching, and experiential learning environment that complements your family's homeschooling goals. We are not a full-time school or child care program but rather a unique educational community where children can connect with nature, develop meaningful skills, and engage in social learning experiences. Below, we've outlined what we offer and the role we play in your child's education.

### What We Offer

- I. **Nature-Based Education:**
  - a. Our curriculum is rooted in outdoor exploration, seasonal rhythms, and experiential learning.
  - b. Activities include nature walks, fort building, animal and plant studies, storytelling, crafts, and life skills.
  - c. Children learn through hands-on engagement, fostering creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving.
- II. **Homeschool Enrichment:**
  - a. We provide activities and experiences that align with Minnesota's homeschool education requirements, particularly in areas such as:
    - i. Physical Education (through outdoor play and exploration)
    - ii. Earth Science and Nature Studies (through observation and research on animals, trees, and ecosystems)
    - iii. Social Studies (through storytelling, history, and seasonal traditions)
    - iv. Arts (through watercolor painting, crafts, and handwork).
  - b. We offer feedback and observations that you can use for reporting and record-keeping.
- III. **Multi-Age Learning:**
  - a. Our program includes small, multi-age groups to encourage collaboration, peer mentoring, and community-building.
  - b. Children benefit from both structured activities and opportunities for self-directed exploration.



IV. **Social Development and Community:**

- a. Northwoods provides a safe and nurturing environment for children to make friends, build relationships, and navigate social interactions.
- b. We create a sense of belonging through community circles, group activities, and shared outdoor adventures.

V. **Focus on Life Skills:**

- a. We incorporate activities such as cooking, baking, gardening, and outdoor survival skills.
- b. These skills empower children to be independent, resourceful, and confident in everyday life.

## Our Role

I. **Partnering with Families:**

- a. We work alongside parents as a supplement to your homeschooling efforts, providing resources and opportunities you may not be able to offer easily at home.
- b. Our program is designed to inspire and support your child's love for learning while helping you meet educational goals.

II. **Fostering Connection to Nature:**

- a. We believe in the transformative power of nature to nurture children's well-being, curiosity, and sense of wonder.
- b. Through outdoor experiences, we encourage a deep appreciation for the natural world.

III. **Guiding Holistic Development:**

- a. Our Waldorf-inspired and Scandinavian approach emphasizes the whole child—head, heart, and hands.
- b. We guide children's intellectual, social, and emotional growth while respecting their unique pace and individuality.

IV. **Creating a Safe and Supportive Environment:**

- a. We prioritize safety and well-being while encouraging healthy risk-taking and exploration.
- b. While we strive to create an inclusive and welcoming environment, we are not equipped to support children requiring specialized care that involves ongoing therapeutic or professional educational interventions. This includes children with mobility challenges, ADHD, autism spectrum conditions, or other needs that require individualized support beyond our program's scope.



We encourage families to connect with specialized services to ensure the best fit for their child's needs.

V. **Enriching Seasonal Learning:**

- a. Each month, our themes and activities reflect seasonal changes, local traditions, and nature's cycles.
- b. These rhythms foster a sense of stability, wonder, and connection to the world around us.

## How We Complement Homeschooling

Northwoods Forest School is designed to add value to your homeschooling journey by:

- Providing structured outdoor and group learning experiences.
- Offering enrichment opportunities that go beyond typical home-based education.
- Creating a social environment where children can practice teamwork, leadership, and communication.
- Helping families stay connected to seasonal rhythms and traditions, which foster a holistic approach to learning and life.

## Why Choose Northwoods Forest School?

- **Small Group Focus:** Your child will thrive in a close-knit, nurturing environment that encourages growth and exploration.
- **Nature-First Philosophy:** We believe children learn best when immersed in the natural world.
- **Community Roots:** We are committed to fostering strong relationships within our Northwoods family and beyond. Our program supports the whole family, encouraging bonding and connection through shared experiences and seasonal traditions.
- **Holistic Learning:** Our program nurtures the whole child, providing a foundation for lifelong learning and connection.

Thank you for considering Northwoods Forest School as part of your child's educational journey. Together, let's create lasting memories and meaningful learning experiences in the heart of the forest!