



Junior Naturalist Program Policies

Thank you for registering your child for the Junior Naturalist Program at Bluff Lake Nature Center. The goal of our program is to introduce young children to the wonder and magic of exploring nature in their own backyard. We hope to foster a lifelong fascination with wild places and wildlife. The following information will help you prepare your child for his/her experience. If you have any questions that are not answered here, please feel free to call Susan Beckett: 303-344-1649.

Policies

Arrival/Absences

The program begins at 9:00 a.m. We will try to wait until everyone is present, although we will begin by 9:15 a.m. at the latest. Our staff will not be ready until 8:45 a.m. at the earliest, so please do not drop off your child before 8:45. **If you know that you will be late, or must cancel, please call Susan Beckett's cell phone: 303-775-0470.**

Cancellation and Refund Policy

Bluff Lake Nature Center is a nonprofit organization and we try to offer our programs at a reasonable cost. Junior Naturalist programs often fill early and require intensive staff preparation. We understand that families change plans and occasionally have to cancel. If you cancel 6 weeks prior to the start of the program, you will receive a full reimbursement. If you cancel between 2 and 6 weeks prior to the start of the program, you will receive 50% reimbursement. If you cancel within 2 weeks of the program, you will not be eligible for reimbursement.

Rain Policy

Rain is part of an outdoor experience, therefore we will plan to hold camp regardless of the weather. We do understand the dangers of lightning and will take appropriate shelter if lightning is present. If a lightning storm persists, the class will end for the day and parents will be notified.

Tardy Pick-Up Policy

Children must be signed in and out daily. Parents must pick their child up by 12:00 pm each day. If a child is not picked up by 12:15 pm, we will attempt to reach the parents or other contacts by phone and the parent will be charged a \$15 child-care fee. If the child is not picked up by 1 pm, the parent will be charged a \$30 child-care fee for each 1/2 hour the parent is delayed. If the child is not picked up by 3:00 pm, the authorities will be contacted. In all cases, please call Susan Beckett's cell phone to inform her of late pick up: 303-775-0470.

Release of Children

Students will be released only to adults listed on the registration form. Adults will be asked to show their I.D. Please inform staff if other adults will be picking up your child.

Accident Policy

All staff is trained in First Aid and CPR. If an accident occurs, a written accident report will be submitted to the Bluff Lake Nature Center Executive Director. If the accident is minor, the parent/guardian will be notified at the end of the day. If the accident is serious, the child will be taken to the nearest medical facility and the parent/guardian will be notified immediately.

Registration Required

Only registered participants will be allowed to attend programs. Please do not bring non-registered children, including siblings, to the programs.

What To Bring/Wear

Clothing and Footwear

If your child is particularly prone to mosquito bites, it is best to wear long sleeves and long pants. Children should wear trail-appropriate closed-toed shoes, no sandals or Crocs please. We have found that many children are uncomfortable when they wear these types of shoes because gravel from the trail can become stuck under their feet, especially when their feet and shoes are wet after wading in the creek. Children should wear socks and bring an extra pair to change into after wading in the creek. We try to get to the creek a couple times a week, especially on warmer days. Please have your child bring a pair of water shoes.

Snacks

BLNC will provide each child with a snack and a drink (juice and/or water) at the end of the day. If your child has food allergies or restrictions, you must

notify staff in writing on the first day of the program or before if possible. If you did not notify Bluff Lake staff of allergies, we will not be held responsible for any allergic reaction. Bluff Lake does not have running water, so please provide your child with a FULL water bottle (8 oz. or more) each day. We will provide wet wipes and hand sanitizer for the children prior to eating snacks, but again running water for washing is not available.

Student Backpack

Please provide your child with a backpack containing a full water bottle, sunscreen, hat, bug spray, a sweatshirt (especially during the month of June), a raincoat, an extra pair of socks, a small hand towel and water shoes. We will do a lot of walking, so please be sure your child is wearing comfortable shoes with socks. Children may bring any exploratory tools they have such as binoculars or magnifiers. In many cases BLNC will also provide these items. Children will not be allowed under any circumstances to use electronics such as video games, radios or cell phones.

Medications

BLNC instructors are not allowed to administer medications, including over-the-counter medications, without a written parental consent letter. Medications must be in their original containers and clearly marked with the child's name. If siblings are attending together, individual over-the-counter medications are not necessary. Children with asthma should carry their own inhaler and use it as directed by their parent and doctor. When possible, parents should administer medications prior to the program.

Sunscreen and Bug Spray

BLNC instructors are not allowed to apply bug spray or sunscreen unless you gave specific consent on the registration form. Please apply these items to your child's skin before the program begins. You may also put it in their pack and have them apply it to themselves. We will supply generic sunscreen and bug spray if we have your written consent on the registration form.

West Nile Virus

There is only one species of mosquito that can transmit West Nile Virus to humans. This particular species usually comes out at night, while the other species are more common during the day. Bluff Lake is monitored by the City of Denver's Environmental Health Department throughout the warm months to detect the presence of this species. Certain areas in the refuge are treated to

control mosquito larva. If you have questions or need additional information about West Nile Virus, please call Glenn Fee, Executive Director, at 303-344-1249.

We look forward to having your child attend the Bluff Lake Junior Naturalist program. We hope this is an experience they will remember for a lifetime. Please don't hesitate to contact us for any reason. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Susan Beckett
Education Director