



2022 Forest Learning Lab

Parent Information and Details

GENERAL FOREST LEARNING LAB INFORMATION

Directions to Forest Learning Lab

Forest Learning Lab is held each day at The PNC Achievement Center for Education and Interpretation located in the Creekside Center in Beckley Creek Park. Our address is 1411 Beckley Creek Parkway, Louisville, KY 40245. **Be advised that some GPS units do not recognize our address. Written directions are as follows:**

Take I-64 East to I-265 (Gene Snyder Freeway) North; take the Middletown exit and turn right onto Shelbyville Road. It is approximately 0.8 miles to Beckley Station Road – turn right at the stop light onto South Beckley Station Road. Follow 1.7 miles to the Beckley Creek Park entrance on left (before intersection of Beckley Station and Wibble Hill Road). Once inside the park you will see our building to your right.

How do I register?

Registering is quick and easy with our online registration process. Simply go to www.theparklands.org to sign up! If you wish to sign up in person or by phone, you can register by calling 502-815-0274 and speaking with one of our Interpretive Rangers.

When is my payment due?

Full payment for camp programs is due at the time of registration or on the first day of Forest Learning Lab. You may pay via check or credit card only. No cash payments will be accepted for camp programs.

Do you offer any discounts?

YES! Parklands members will receive a \$15 discount per week Forest Learning Lab. The Parklands of Floyds Fork is a donor-supported public park and membership is a great way to support the parks you love!

Will I receive confirmation of enrollment when I sign up for Forest Learning Lab programs?

Yes! If you are registering online, confirmations are automatically generated and sent to the e-mail address you entered at the time of registration. If you call to make a reservation, please be sure to provide us with your e-mail address so that they may send you a confirmation.

What if my child would like to be placed with his/her friend?

Each camp group (1st-3rd, 4th -6th) will be it's own group. Campers in different age groups cannot be placed together for safety reasons.

Can my student attend the Forest Learning Lab in an older or younger age group, even if he/she is not entering those grades?

For the safety of our students and for the educational well-being of our students, age categories must be observed to ensure the best possible experience for all students. Group curriculum will be tailored to each age group. We have also found that children enjoy themselves more and have a better experience if they are with kids their own age. Students must choose the group that corresponds to their school system grade level.

PREPARING FOR FOREST LEARNING LAB

What should my student bring each day?

Each student will be required to provide their own learning device and pair of headphones for Non-Traditional Instruction. This can be a tablet, smartphone, or laptop. Students will have access to WiFi at the PNC Achievement Center as well as throughout The Parklands with the use of hotspots. **The Parklands does not have devices to loan so please come prepared each day with your device and headphones.**

Students should wear appropriate attire for outdoor activity that can get wet and muddy. Students can expect to be outdoors for a significant part of the day so please dress for the weather potentially including rain jackets, boots, coats, gloves, hats, etc). Most days students will be participating in creek and outdoor educational activities where the student can expect to get muddy and wet, so appropriate clothing is required (students will not get wet during days deemed too cold for creek exploration). When wading in the stream students will be required to keep their shoes on. Old tennis shoes, water shoes, or strap on sandals work well for this. A change of clothes and shoes is strongly recommended for comfort.

Food will not be provided as a part of the Forest Learning Lab day; all students should bring a lunch and snack that does not require refrigeration and a bottle for water that can be refilled, each day. A backpack is strongly suggested so that we are able to transport water and devices to different parts of the park.

Parklands Forest Learning Lab is based mostly outdoors and your child should expect to get muddy and/or wet. During most days (as weather allows), we spend time at Floyds Fork wading in the stream but only with SHOES ON. Please come prepared each day with a change of clothes and shoes for comfort.

How should I prepare prior to arriving at the Forest Learning Lab each day?

If your child feels sick, please keep them home and inform Parklands Director of Education Curtis Carman by emailing ccarman@21cparks.org or by calling, 502-592-7618. Please make sure your child

arrives at camp each day with clean clothes, a charged device, a change of clothes and shoes, a refillable water bottle, sack lunch, snack, and a clean facemask. Parklands staff will have some facemasks on hand to provide during indoor activities but **a personal face covering is strongly recommended for safety**. Please apply sunscreen and bug spray to your camper prior to arriving at camp. Parklands staff will remind students to reapply throughout the day but will not put sunscreen or bug spray on children unless they are unable to do so themselves.

What does my child need to wear?

All students should dress appropriately for the weather potentially including jackets, gloves, hats, and scarves. Students should wear appropriate footwear for summer/fall outdoor exploration. Most, if not all, groups participate in creek activities so please have your child prepared with shoes that they can get wet. Good examples of creek shoes are KEEN water shoes, old tennis shoes, or closed toe water shoes. **A change of clothes and shoes/socks is strongly recommended for comfort**. As the weather cools off, a sturdy pair of tennis shoes or hiking shoes/boots is recommended for comfort as trails can be muddy during the fall rainy season. A change of clothes is always recommended for comfort.

What should I do for lunch/snack each day?

Campers will eat lunch in the park each day, so please pack a lunch and snack for your child. Remember, some students may be suffering from food allergies so please be considerate when packing your child's lunch. Please note: Lunches will usually be outdoors so do not pack food that requires refrigeration.

DAILY DROP OFF & PICK UP PROCEDURES

What do I need to do on my child's first day of Forest Learning Lab?

On your child's first day (Monday) you'll need to bring your child to the side door of the PNC Achievement Center located in Beckley Creek Park to check in and turn in **all required paperwork including the Health History Form, Permission Form, & Emergency Action Form – if necessary, and curriculum plan**). Please make every effort to have paper work filled out prior to camp. If that is not an option, we will have copies available during drop-off.

How do I drop off / pick up the rest of the week?

Each day, Parents/Guardians will pull up to the side door of the PNC Achievement Center to drop their student off. Parklands staff will meet your student outside to check them in for the day.

During pick up, parents/guardians should pull up to the side door of the PNC Achievement Center. Parklands staff will meet you at your car to check identification. **Parklands staff will only release students to those whose names appear on the Health History Form and all those picking up MUST show ID each day**. In order to protect our students and staff, please consider the use of a face mask during drop-off and pick-up.

How soon can I drop off my child? Is it OK to pick up early or drop off late?

Drop off begins no earlier than 8:00 a.m. and will continue until 8:30 a.m. when Forest Learning Lab activities begin. Parents/Guardians may opt to drop off late or pick up early, but please be advised that students may be participating in camp activities in the park and time should be allotted for travel back to the PNC Achievement Center. **Official pick up hours are from 3:30-4:00pm**. There is no late care

service; all students must be picked up no later than 4:00pm. Parents/Guardians will be subject to an automatic credit card charge of \$1 per minute for each minute after 4:00pm.

WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE FOREST LEARNING LAB

What can my child expect when arriving at Forest Learning Lab?

Drop-Off for Parklands Forest Learning Lab begins at 8:00am with activities beginning at 8:30am. Please make every effort to arrive at camp by 8:30am so that your child can meet up with their group. If arriving late, please alert Director of Education Curtis Carman by calling 502-592-7618.

Parklands staff will check in your child outside of the side door to the PNC Center each day. Parents and students must remain in their vehicle until a Parklands staff member comes to check them in. Students will be asked to wear face coverings when inside the PNC Center or when expected to be in close contact with other students or staff so please come prepared with a mask each morning. Students will be asked to maintain 6 feet of distance between other students, visitors, and staff members both indoors and out. Parklands staff will enforce this rule and reserve the right to send a student home for failing to follow safety directions. Students will wash hands for at least 20 seconds upon entering the building. For more information on COVID-19 safety procedures please see the COVID-19 Safety Guidelines document.

What can my child expect during a typical day of Forest Learning Lab?

Parklands Forest Learning Lab students can expect a structured day of learning similar to a normal school day. Students will spend a significant part of each day working on their NTI curriculum and homework with the help and coaching of our Education Rangers- all of whom are trained educators and/or scientists. This schoolwork and tutoring time will take place outdoors as much as the weather allows. Hotspots will allow us to take an internet connection with us so work can be done from (almost) anywhere! We will also spend a portion of each day hiking trails, wading in the stream, and participating in hands-on science and outdoor education activities. These “extracurricular” activities might include archery, arts and crafts, science experiments, mountain biking, fishing, hiking, and creek walking! Floyds Fork is our park namesake and a big part of our Forest Learning Lab activities. Students will get up close and personal with our local stream and can expect to get wet and muddy during Forest Learning Lab programs. A change of clothes and shoes is highly recommended for comfort.

What can my child expect when departing the Forest Learning Lab for the day?

Forest Learning Lab activities end each day at 3:30pm and parents will be expected to pick their camper up no later than 4:00pm.

Pick up will be at the side door to the PNC Center (same as drop-off). Parents will be required to stay in their vehicle during pick up. Upon arrival, Parklands staff will check parent/guardian identification and then walk your student to your vehicle. Please have your student wash hands for at least 20 seconds when arriving at home. Showering/bathing as well as washing clothes and other items is recommended after arriving at home each day.

THE EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION TEAM & CLASS SIZES

Who is The Education & Interpretation Team? Who will be my child's Lab Leaders?

The Education & Interpretation team at The Parklands is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Forest Learning Lab. They are full-time staff with The Parklands and are on site and available each day. The Parklands Forest Learning Lab programs are taught by The Parklands Interpretive Rangers, Education Specialist, and Director of Education; all are college graduates with formal and informal teaching experience. All have educational backgrounds in fields such as education, biology, geology, and natural resource management. All are CPR & First Aid Certified and have completed extensive criminal background checks. All staff love the outdoors and are looking forward to working with the students this summer/fall. Our standard ratio of counselors to children is 1:10. This year we hope to have two counselors per group for much of the day but we know that at times, one staff member may need to hang back to clean and/or disinfect supplies or facilities.

How large are your classes, what are your ratios?

All camps are limited to 10 campers per group for safety. When a class reaches capacity, we will start a waiting list. Our ratios are 1:10; each class has at minimum one adult for every 10 students at all times. Every effort will be made to have two adults per group depending on activity and cleaning schedule.

Can I stay with my child during Forest Learning Lab?

For the safety of Parklands staff and students, parents will not be allowed to stay with their child at the Forest Learning Lab. We know students may be uneasy in a new environment so to help with this, Parents/Guardians are welcome to stay with their students during our drop off period (8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.) as long as they stay separate from the rest of the Forest Learning Lab group-outside. At the start of our day, we ask that Parents/Guardians leave their students in the care of The Education & Interpretation Team. Please keep in mind that all Education & Interpretation Team members have experience and an interest in working with children and will strive to make the Forest Learning Lab the best experience possible for your child. The Education & Interpretation team will call you if a concern should arise with your child.

FOREST LEARNING LAB POLICIES

What are your COVID-19 safety policies?

See COVID-19 Safety Policy Document

No Violence Policy

The Parklands of Floyds Fork has a No Violence policy in place to keep Forest Learning Lab students and other park visitors safe and having fun. Failure to comply with this policy may result in your child being asked to leave with no refund provided. Parents will be notified if this policy is violated.

What is your cancellation/refund policy?

Due to current COVID-19 restrictions, state recommended closures of childcare centers and cancellations of children's activities can happen abruptly and with little to no warning. During such state issued closures of childcare facilities, all participants will receive a full refund.

If requesting a refund NOT based on state and health department guidance, refunds will be issued in full if requested at least 7 days prior to the start of your program week(s). If a refund is

requested under 7 days prior to the start of your program week(s), partial refunds will be considered. “No Shows” will not be issued a refund.

21st Century Parks reserves the right to cancel Forest Learning Lab sessions without prior notice based on safety concerns at which point a full refund will be issued.

If your child is sent home due to COVID-19 related symptoms a refund will be issues for all days your child cannot attend.

What is your inherent risk clause? Why do you need it?

Because we offer Forest Learning Lab in an outdoor setting (and nature can be unpredictable), it is important that we communicate with our students Parents/Guardians about any potential risk that may occur when we are participating in activities that are outside. Our number one priority at the Forest Learning Lab is safety and all decisions and activities are conducted with this in mind. Inherent risk clauses are common in outdoor education programs; our inherent risk clause is below:

I understand that the child named above must follow all rules and regulations stated by 21st Century Parks, Inc., including all policies and procedures laid out in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Inherent risk is associated with all outdoor activities including but not limited to hiking, biking, wading, and fishing. All of these activities can be adversely effected by trail conditions and weather. I further agree to release and hold harmless 21st Century Parks, Inc., from any and all claims of bodily injury, sickness, disease or death, (including loss or damage to tangible property) to my child that might occur during this program. Outdoor and adventure activities involve inherent risks that are sometimes impossible to know or predict, including but not limited to: narrow trails; rough, exposed, steep or slippery terrain; lightning, cold weather, wild animals, plants and insects; fires and other acts of nature.

We constantly strive to provide programs that respect emotional, social, intellectual and physical safety. Participants and/or guardians acknowledge their understanding of and agreement to participate in potentially unsafe programs by signing appropriate Health and Safety forms.

What if my student has special needs, or requires daily medication?

21st Century Parks, Inc. staff & volunteers are unable to administer medication to any child. If your child requires an epinephrine pen, inhaler, or any other emergency medication you may fill out an Emergency Action Form so that we may administer it in a crisis. If your child takes daily medication, please administer prior to coming to camp or fill out the Emergency Action Form. Please include the name of the medication and dosage instructions and Parklands staff will administer. All medication must be brought in a parked bottle with the child’s name and prescription information.

Please note that one-on-one care cannot be provided. You may opt to provide your child with an outside caregiver during the Forest Learning Lab (at no cost) if you wish to have your child participate in programs.

What if my student will be absent?

Please notify us by calling the Education office at 502-815-0274 or the Director of Education directly at 502-592-7618. Our Education & Interpretation team will check messages daily and will notify your Lab Leader in case of an absence. Refunds will not be issued for absent days not related to COVID-19.

What is your policy in case of severe weather?

During times of severe weather, Forest Learning Lab activities will be held indoors in the PNC Center. In case of weather severe enough to cancel Forest Learning Lab activities, The Parklands Education & Interpretation team will communicate with all parents by phone and email in addition to providing closing information on our website.