

# School Year Programs: Required Gear List

## Bring Daily:

- ✓ Backpack
- ✓ Bandanna
- ✓ 1-2 water bottles (min. 16 oz)—tight seal, no leaks
- ✓ Lunch & snacks
- ✓ Layers of weather appropriate clothing (labeled w/ name)
- ✓ Journal and pencil (optional - Rite in the Rain notepad)
- ✓ Knife -*see #5 below for more details*
- ✓ \*PLEASE NO MEDIA DEVICES, even for “naturalist” uses.

**Clothing Considerations** – *“There is no such thing as bad weather, only inappropriate clothing!”* Weather appropriate clothing is an absolute necessity. Please make sure that your child is well prepared for success with the following guidelines:

- **#1 Clothing Requirement: They can get dirty!** This encourages children to fully engage in their experience. Colors for camouflage can be especially fun. Some parents like to use plastic sheets or trashbags to help protect their car seats from muddy kids after a day at our programs.
- **#2 Clothing Requirement: They Can Handle the Weather!** Wool or synthetic fibers stay warm when wet. \*PLEASE NO COTTON IN THE WINTER (this includes socks, underwear, pants and outer layers, etc.) \*When cotton gets wet, and we will definitely be getting wet, it wicks heat away from the body, losing all insulation and making your child colder than they would be without it. **Rain gear and boots need to be waterproof**, water resistant is not enough to keep your child warm. Watch your email for “gearing up” with a budget.
- **#3 Clothing Requirement: Layer to stay warm and dry!** This includes:
  - ✓ Two warm under layers (top and bottom - NO COTTON please!)
  - ✓ Two pairs of wool or synthetic socks (extra pair in backpack)
  - ✓ Waterproof (not “water-resistant”) boots, pants and jacket.
  - ✓ Waterproof mittens / gloves
  - ✓ Warm hat (wool or fleece is best, NO COTTON please!)
  - ✓ Scarf or neck warmer (wool or fleece)
  - ✓ For warm weather, cotton T-shirts and jeans are acceptable (quick drying clothes are preferred). Sunscreen and sunhat are crucial for those surprising sunny days. *Please have sunscreen already applied when you drop off your child.*
- **#4 Shoe Requirements: Closed Toed Shoes Always!** We require that all students have \*waterproof, close-toed shoes for class. We do allow students (with instructor permission) to go barefoot. \*Rainboots are top choice of kids! Tennis shoes and hiking boots tend not to be waterproof enough. Warm weather water shoes **MUST BE CLOSE TOED** as we will also be walking around in the forest in them.

→ **#5 Knives (for Village, Foxes, Coyotes, Wild Within, Community School, and Nature Skills Monthlies (not Nature Adventure!))** Students of appropriate age (7 years and older) may *earn the privilege* of using a knife. This decision is one made by parents and instructors together.

Knife requirements:

- ✓ Fixed blades only. NO FOLDING KNIVES, regardless of locking features.
- ✓ Blade length: 2-3.5" is ideal with a maximum of 5" (adjust to size of child)
- ✓ Hard / Rigid Sheath for storing in backpack.
- ✓ No wearing knives on belts or externally on clothing or backpacks, or on neck lanyards. Knives must be stored inside the backpack when not in use.

\*Our recommended knife can be purchased at the office or online in the registration process.  
Direct questions about knives to your instructor!

**Recommended Other Gear:** We have a library of field guides and interesting books that students are able to use at class. They need not bring any to programs. We recommend that students have access to some of the essential field guides when they're at home. These are great gift ideas; ask your instructor for a recommendation! The WAS online store has links to our favorite field guides.