

## Purpose-

The Way Back Project – Forest School provides children and families with opportunities for hands-on, nature-based learning. While we take all reasonable precautions to ensure safety, participation involves certain inherent risks. This waiver outlines those risks and expectations so that all participants may join safely and responsibly. Assumption of Risk-I understand that participation in Forest School involves activities that carry inherent risks, including but not limited to:

- Use of hand tools (knives, saws, hammers, hatchets, etc.)
- Exposure to fire, including campfires for warmth or cooking
- Water safety risks from proximity to the lake and wetlands
- Outdoor hazards such as tripping, falling, or climbing on uneven terrain, logs, or rocks
- Weather-related exposure including cold, heat, rain, snow, and wind
- Insects, ticks, and wildlife, including but not limited to mosquito bites, tick bites, Lyme disease, bee/wasp stings, and allergic reactions to plants, fungi, or any other natural findings in the woodlands
- Group play and exploration, which may result in cuts, scrapes, bumps, bruises, or other injuries despite supervision

### Supervision & Parent Responsibilities

- Children may not be left unattended. A parent, guardian, or designated caregiver must remain on-site and is responsible for their child's direct supervision unless otherwise specified in writing.
- Parents/caregivers are not permitted to be alone with another family's child. All adults agree to follow Youth Protection guidelines as outlined by the Boy Scouts of America, including the "two-deep leadership" principle. Parents are strongly

encouraged to review BSA's Youth Protection Training materials.

- Families are responsible for ensuring children arrive dressed appropriately for all-weather learning.
- Families must disclose any allergies, medical needs, or behavioral concerns to facilitators before participation. Medical Authorization- I certify that I/my child am physically and emotionally able to participate. In the event of illness or injury, I authorize Forest School staff to administer basic first aid and to seek emergency medical care if necessary. I agree to assume all costs related to such treatment. Release of Liability-In consideration of participation in The Way Back Project – Forest School, I release, waive, and hold harmless the program, its facilitators, staff, volunteers, board members, land partners, and affiliates from any and all claims or liability for personal injury, illness, property damage, or death resulting from participation. This includes but is not limited to:
  - Accidents involving tools, fire, or natural play spaces
  - Tick-borne illness, insect bites, or allergic reactions to plants, fungi, or other natural exposures
  - Water-related incidents near the lake or wetlands
  - Weather-related injuries (sunburn, frostbite, hypothermia, dehydration, etc.)
  - Loss, theft, or damage to personal belongings
  - Any accidents or injuries that occur during program activities, despite reasonable care and supervision
  - Self inflicted harm or loss
  - I acknowledge that the woodland environment includes natural hazards such as unstable ground, deteriorating or falling trees and branches, and other changing woodland conditions. I further understand that participation may be impacted by nature-related disasters such as floods, storms, high winds, fire, or other extreme weather events. I release The Way Back Project – Forest

School from responsibility for any injury, damage, or loss resulting from these natural conditions or disasters. Indemnification I agree to indemnify and hold harmless The Way Back Project – Forest School from any loss, liability, damage, or costs (including court costs and attorney's fees) that may occur due to my/my child's participation. Program Guidelines

- I agree to follow all safety rules and instructions given by Forest School facilitators.
- I understand that disruptive behavior may result in dismissal from the program without refund.
- I acknowledge that outdoor learning may involve activities not specifically listed in this waiver, but which are consistent with Forest School practices.