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REDEMPTIVE EDUCATION

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# *Boots & Roots*

PARENT HANDBOOK

2022 - 2023

## *Boots & Roots (B&R)*

Children participating in Boots & Roots engage with the flora and fauna in our local parks. Active exploration and interaction with the natural world is interwoven with literature, literacy, numeracy, science, music, art, and Biblical content. Social, artistic, academic, relational, spiritual and physical learning is offered via a strongly “delight--driven” emergent curriculum based both on teacher-initiated and child-initiated goals and activities. God as Creator is highlighted throughout the adventures.

### *Curriculum Units 2022-2023*

SCAMPER (fall) - Who "scampers" through woods, fields, gardens, and why?

SLEEP (winter) - How, where, and why do animals, insects, birds, plants and people sleep; and what happens when they do?

SPLASH (spring) - Who splashes in puddles, creeks, ponds and rain? The poetry, science, and wonder of water.

### *Daily Schedule*

<i>8:45 - 8:55 am</i>	Arrival
<i>9:00 am</i>	Program start with songs, story, or greeting time
<i>9:30 am</i>	Exploration and thematic activities
<i>10:30 am</i>	Snack and stories
<i>10:45 am</i>	Exploration and thematic activities
<i>11:45 am</i>	Wrap up reflections and floor books journaling about the day together
<i>12:00 noon</i>	Pick up

## *Parent Responsibilities*

**Contact us** | when your child will not attend the program due to illness, travel, etc. Please contact your program instructor ASAP via email or phone.

**Come prepared** | Parents are expected to daily send their child with all required gear; this includes a full water bottle, a NON-NUT snack, and everything on the gear list.

**Volunteer!** | There is no parental involvement requirement for B&R parents. However, we have NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS if you have the availability and interest. These include:

*Substitutes and Helpers* to support instructors. Substitutes help cover a day when an instructor is ill and helpers sign up for regular days to be present assisting.

*Weekly "office staff"* to support teachers on our Fairfax and Loudoun Co (programs running concurrently with our SOW programs) campuses by providing a second pair of hands, putting on bandaids, fielding calls and holding down the fort. We currently need one for each day of the week and "subs." Prefer recurring presence on a specific day of the week – choose your day: Tues, Wed or Thur. Subs "on call" as needed.

*Weekly carpool Morning Drop-Off Monitors* – T/W/or Th, 8:45-9:15 am to check in students at our Fairfax and Loudoun Co. campuses

*Family Fun Event Initiators* – Think up a fun thing to do, and invite us all to do it! i.e. a Saturday picnic at a park, a "Calling All Chefs Chili Cook-Off," – getting any ideas? Zing your idea to B&R instructor for the calendar or to volunteer for another area of need!

## *Redemptive Leadership*

Redemptive Leadership is our management model, including Redemptive Discipline as our approach to what is typically called "classroom management." This is *not* "soft," but neither is it punitive; infused with grace and truth *interwoven* for the blessing of the learning community, both as individuals and as a group. Key features are "High Warmth, High Expectations, High Support: Strategies & Accountability."

## *CRE Health Protocols*

Sick children, parents, volunteers and teachers are asked to stay home. If your child is unwell, please keep them home until they are well.

If anyone presents with a fever of 100.3 degrees or significant symptoms of illness while participating in our programs, s/he will be sent home.

We will continue to facilitate frequent hand washing, hand sanitizing, and sensible cleaning of surfaces.

We will continue to offer instruction outdoors at least 75% of the time, maximizing the benefits of fresh air, sunshine, and healthful exercise in maintaining wellness to our program participants.

## *B&R Calendar*

[redacted - reserved for enrolled families]

### *Events to Note:*

**Gear and Book Swap!** After morning drop-off for Scent of Water (K-8 program) and Boots & Roots families at our Fairfax and Loudoun Co. Campuses. Bring outdoor gear and books (boots, rain suits, snow pants, curriculum books, children's books, etc.) that you no longer use and share them with the community! Pick up some used gear for your own family!

You will receive invitations to sign up for these and other events from [info@redemptiveeducation.org](mailto:info@redemptiveeducation.org). Please add this address to your contact list.

## *Required Gear List*

- **Rubber boots/wellies (tall)**
  - **Comfortable walking or hiking shoes** (no open-toed shoes or sandals)
  - **Warm socks** for when it gets cold (\*wool or wool blend best). All students should keep an extra pair in their backpack for wet days or creek exploration.
  - **Backpack** appropriate for size of child. Backpacks should contain extra clothes (see below), water bottle, snack. Students should be wearing their outdoor gear upon arrival, **including sunscreen and bug spray**.
  - **Water bottle**
  - **Warm clothes (with names labeled)** for when it gets cold, including but not limited to: winter coat, rain jacket, rain/snow pants, winter knit hat, mittens or gloves (*water repellent or resistant, NOT knit*). Scarves should be the continuous loop type that won't drag in the mud. Gear should cover all exposed skin - no gaps.
  - **Extra set of labeled clothing** (pants, shirt, undies, socks) in a labeled ziplock bag in their backpack.
  - **Snow or rain suit/pants** for cold or snowy/rainy days - they will wear these all the time.
  - **Nutritious snack** - think about what will keep them fueled! Protein, fruit, or veggies preferred (smaller than a lunch)
  - **Sunscreen and bug repellent** if desired, parents should apply it before arrival
  - **Small hand sanitizer** that hooks to backpack
  - **Baseball hat or sun hat**
  - **\*Sunglasses**
- \*optional but highly recommended for protection from weather and/or insects

## *Programs*

### **Alexandria | River Farm**

*Mon/Fri 2 day program*

7931 E Boulevard Dr  
Alexandria, VA 22308

### **Annandale | Calvary Church**

**Fairfax County main campus**

*Tues/Wed/Thurs 3 day program*

8220 Little River Turnpike  
Annandale, VA 22003

### **Lovettsville | Ride On Ranch**

**Loudoun County main campus**

*Tues/Wed/Thurs 3 day program*

38416 Morrisonville Rd  
Lovettsville, VA 20180

### **Richmond | Private property located near Forest Hills Park**

*Tues/Wed/Thurs 3 day program*

*Contacts (please add these to your email contacts)*

[redacted - reserved for enrolled families]

General Information  
[info@redemptiveeducation.org](mailto:info@redemptiveeducation.org)