

Outdoor Supplemental Science Program FAQ

What: An in-person weekly after school series aimed at providing supplemental nature and science education. Sessions will be grouped by grades in order to tailor the curriculum to each grade's science units. General nature and adventure curriculum will be included as well.

When: All sessions will occur once/week from 2:45-5:30.

Grades K-1: Mondays

Grades 2-3: Tuesdays

Grades 4-5: Wednesdays

Grades 6-8: Thursdays

Where: Brookline Environmental Education Center, 654 Hammond St within the Soule Park. Initial instruction will take place outside the center. Our back-up severe weather indoor space will be the Soule Gym. After each week's introductory lesson, participants will be transported in recreation vehicles to Brookline Parks and Sanctuaries. Pick-up will be back at the center.

Who: All sessions will be limited to 10 Brookline students. Sessions will be run by long-time Brookline Rec Environmental Educator Stephanie Springer. One additional staff/teacher aide will help lead the group.

Cost: There will be a per session fee of \$60, but the program must be purchased as a series. We will not be able to prorate for sessions missed.

What parks will you visit?: All parks will be in Brookline and within a 15 minute drive of the center. Destinations will include Larz Anderson Park, Olmsted Park, Dane Park, and all 3 of Brookline's nature sanctuaries. All parks are destinations with low public use and large open spaces that will allow for minimal/no public contact with our student groups.

What will you do each session? Sessions will vary by day and age group, but activities will include interactive lessons, hands-on games, science experiments and observations, nature walks, and some collaborative projects. One week may be devoted to bird watching while another may include using nets to search for pond critters.

What are your general hygiene/cleaning policies? Participants and staff will be required to wash hands upon arrival, and hand sanitizer will be used between each activity. Individual items such as binoculars and nets will be sanitized between uses.

What are your van policies?: Students will be spread out over two vehicles: our 15-passenger minibus and a 12-passenger van. Everyone must wash their hands and use sanitizer before entering. Students will keep the same spots to and from each destination. Masks must be worn for the entirety of the trip so there is no eating or drinking on the vehicles. All windows will remain open and the vent set to 'high.' All vehicles are thoroughly cleaned with an electrostatic spray gun before each use. Booster seats will be required for our two younger sessions.

What are your mask policies?: All children and adults will be required to wear masks/face coverings for the entirety of the program. The only time masks can be removed is when individuals are at least 8 feet from everyone else to drink water.

Will there be any snack time during the program? No eating will be allowed at the program in order to minimize risk and increase instruction time. Children should come already having eaten lunch and any snacks.

What happens in bad weather?: In the case of thunderstorms or severe downpours, the program will move into our indoor space. If it is only lightly raining, we will go forward with our outdoor portion as planned. Students will need to be prepared for the elements with appropriate outerwear and footwear.

What about bathrooms? There are bathroom facilities at the BEEC location, but not at most of the parks. Students will go to the bathroom before getting on the vans. While these bathrooms are open to the public, they are cleaned regularly and public access will be denied when our program is using them.

What forms do I need to fill out? After registration, participants will have to fill out a simple information form, sign our general program waiver, sign our Covid-specific waiver, and bring a signed daily health check form for each day of the program.

What if someone has symptoms of Covid? Each family will have to complete a daily form stating that the child and all family members are free of any covid symptoms. If the participant has had any symptoms they will not be allowed on site to the program.

What if symptoms develop during the program? If a child develops any new symptoms during the program, they will be immediately isolated from other participants and monitored by staff. If the symptom persists for at least 30 minutes, parents will be called and be required to immediately pick-up their child, even if we are out on a field trip.

What happens next? If someone is sent home due to symptoms, this does not mean that the rest of the group must leave or quarantine. If a student or student's family member receives a positive covid test, we will work with the town health department to decide if anyone else in the program will need to quarantine. We will offer prorated refunds if anyone misses program time due to a positive case or quarantine order.