

# *Agrius Forest Schools*



## *Family Handbook*

Agrius Forest Schools LLC  
Agrius Schools Homeschool Enrichment Program  
[www.agriusschools.org](http://www.agriusschools.org)  
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## ***Welcome***

Agrius Forest Schools is a private K–8 outdoor education private school grounded in nature-based learning, child-led exploration, ecological stewardship, and whole-child development. Our model draws from Forest School pedagogy, experiential education, and developmental psychology to foster resilience, curiosity, collaboration, and environmental literacy.

We will begin our programming for the 2026-2027 School Year at Chatfield State Park in Littleton, CO for our location 'The Burrow'.

This handbook is intended to clearly outline expectations, policies, and procedures for students and families. Enrollment constitutes agreement to the standards described herein.

The Family Handbook is reviewed and updated annually as needed.

## ***Handbook Acknowledgment***

Parents/guardians and students are expected to review this handbook annually. Continued enrollment signifies agreement with the policies and expectations outlined above.

Agrius Forest Schools reserves the right to update this handbook as needed to ensure safety, compliance, and program integrity.



### ***School Philosophy and Core Values***

Students exploring nature, building resilience and curiosity - Respect for self, others, and the natural world - Experiential, inquiry-based learning - Risk-aware (not risk-averse) education - Emotional regulation and restorative practices - Inclusivity, equity, and community responsibility



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# Student and Family Expectations and Responsibilities

## ***Code of Conduct***

Forest school group circle emphasizing respect and community All members of the Agrius Forest Schools community are expected to uphold the following standards:

- Treat peers, staff, visitors, animals, and the environment with respect
- Follow safety guidelines during all activities
- Use language and behavior that is non-violent, inclusive, and appropriate
- Care for shared tools, materials, and natural spaces
- Follow instructions from guides (teachers) promptly, especially in safety-related situations

Prohibited behaviors include, but are not limited to: - Physical aggression or threats - Bullying, harassment, or discrimination - Destruction of property or natural habitats - Possession of weapons, illegal substances, or unsafe materials

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### ***Student Rights***

Inclusive outdoor classroom with diverse students Students at Agrius Forest Schools have the right to:

- Learn in a physically and emotionally safe environment
  - Be treated with dignity, fairness, and respect
  - Express thoughts, feelings, and ideas appropriately
  - Participate in restorative processes when conflicts arise
  - Receive reasonable accommodations consistent with developmental needs
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### ***Student Responsibilities***

Children caring for outdoor learning environment Students are expected to:

- Follow the Code of Conduct and safety rules
  - Engage respectfully in learning activities
  - Communicate needs, concerns, or conflicts to a guide
  - Take responsibility for personal belongings
  - Participate in caring for the learning environment and community
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### ***Disciplinary Measures***

Restorative conversation between educator and student outdoors Agrius Forest Schools utilizes a restorative and developmentally appropriate approach to discipline.



Progressive Responses May Include:

1. Verbal redirection or reminder
2. Guided reflection and problem-solving conversation
3. Temporary removal from an activity for regulation and safety
4. Restorative action (e.g., repairing harm, apology, service)
5. Parent/guardian conference
6. Behavior support plan
7. Suspension or dismissal (reserved for severe or repeated safety violations)

Immediate action may be taken when behavior poses a risk to self, others, or the environment.

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***Family Communication***

- Families will receive regular updates regarding programming and logistics
  - Parents are expected to review communications promptly
  - Questions or concerns should be addressed respectfully with staff
  - Families must notify the school of absences in advance when possible. We follow attendance guidelines according to the CDE and submit our registration and attendance to the proper channels.
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# Student Health and Safety

## Forest school safety briefing and first aid preparedness

### ***General Safety Principles***

- Adult-to-student ratios appropriate to age and activity
- Ongoing site-based and activity-based risk assessments
- Clear physical boundaries and safety briefings
- Staff trained in first aid, CPR, and emergency response

### ***Colorado Specific Environmental Health Considerations***

Agrius Forest Schools accounts for region-specific risks, including: - Altitude-related hydration and sun exposure - Rapid weather changes - Wildlife awareness and habitat protection - Seasonal wildfire risk and smoke exposure



### ***Illness Policy***

Students should remain home if experiencing: - Fever within the past 24 hours - Vomiting or diarrhea within the past 24 hours - Symptoms of contagious illness

Medications

- Medications must be provided with written parental authorization
- Emergency medications (e.g., EpiPens, inhalers) must be clearly labeled and accessible

Injuries

Minor injuries will be treated on site. Parents will be notified of any injury beyond basic first aid.

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### ***Extreme Weather, Emergencies, and Closures***

Outdoor shelter and weather preparedness in forest school

Agrius Forest Schools operates in most weather conditions, consistent with Forest School best practices. Decisions are guided by Colorado-specific environmental risks and real-time assessment.

Colorado-Specific Weather Thresholds

Programming may be modified, relocated, or canceled under the following conditions:

- Cold: Sustained temperatures or wind chills below 25°F
- Heat: Heat index exceeding 98°F
- Lightning: Cloud-to-ground lightning within unsafe proximity (30/30 rule)
- Wind: Sustained winds or gusts exceeding safe operational limits





- Wildfire Smoke / Air Quality: Air Quality Index (AQI) levels deemed unhealthy for children per Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment guidance
- Red Flag Warnings or Active Wildfire Threats in or near program areas

Families will be notified via official communication channels as early as possible when weather-related changes occur.

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### ***Emergency Procedures***

- Guides carry emergency contact information at all times
  - Shelter-in-place, shelter seeking, or moving locations within the park will be followed as appropriate
  - Parents must keep contact information current
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### ***What to Wear: All Seasons, All Weather***

Seasonal outdoor clothing examples for children Outdoor learning depends on appropriate clothing. Students must arrive dressed for the weather.

### **General Guidelines**

- Clothing should be weather-appropriate, durable, and allow free movement
- Layers are essential
- All items should be labeled
- Students should have a change of clothes for each season



### Fall (40–65°F)

- Long pants or shorts for warmer days
- Long-sleeve shirts or t-shirts for warmer days
- Insulating layer (fleece or wool)
- Warm jacket or fleece
- Sturdy closed-toe shoes with optional water shoes for warmer days

### Winter (Below 40°F)

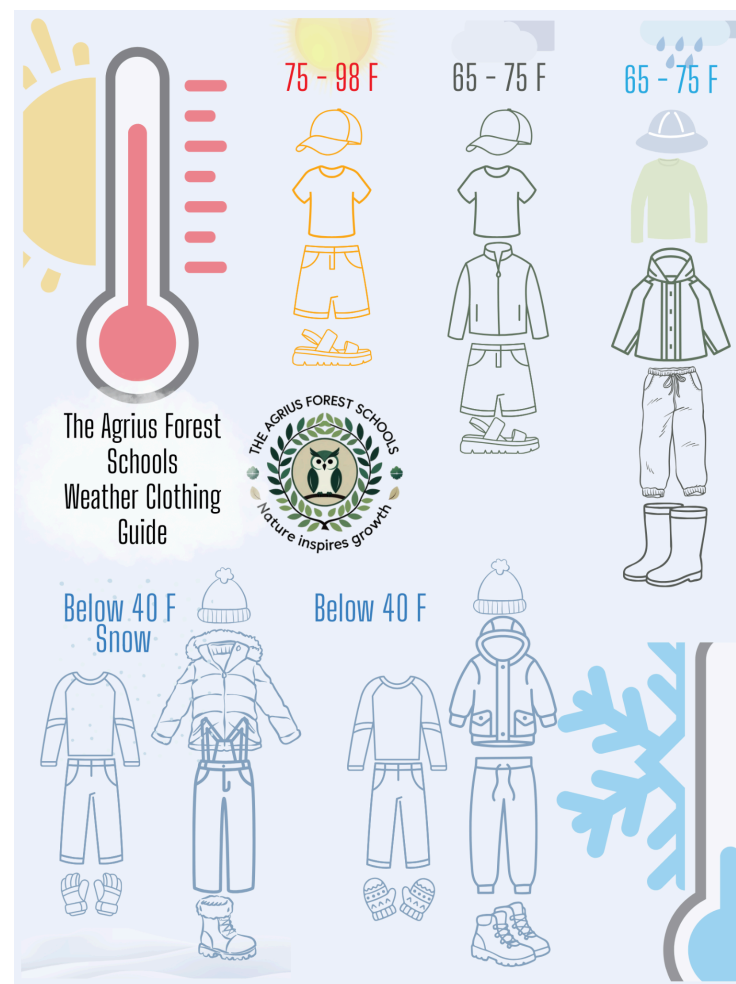
- Insulated waterproof coat
- Base layers (wool or synthetic)
- Snow pants
- Warm hat covering ears
- Gloves or mittens
- Insulated waterproof boots
- Waterproof snow jacket

### Spring (45–65°F, Wet Conditions)

- Waterproof jacket and pants
- Layers for temperature changes
- Waterproof footwear

### Spring (65–85°F)

- Sun hat
- Water shoes or breathable hiking shoes
- Short sleeve shirt or sun shirt/UV protected clothing
- Shorts





- Light sweater or windbreaker

#### End of Spring/Summer (85–98°F)

- Lightweight, breathable clothing
- Short sleeve shirt or sun shirt/UV protected clothing
- Sun hat
- Closed-toe shoes

*\*Sunscreen and insect repellent provided*

Students who arrive unprepared for weather may be unable to fully participate and may be sent home upon arrival. .

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#### ***What to bring***

Students should come prepared to school with the following items daily:

1. Change of clothes - appropriate for the weather
2. Full lunch in a leakproof lunchbox - a protein, fruit, vegetable, and carb balanced meal \*a snack is provided but extras are encouraged.
3. Medications (if taken)
4. Backpack with a front buckle that can contain all of the items listed above

#### ***What NOT to bring***

1. Toys or any other items that may be lost or destroyed outdoors
2. Shareable snacks, students are required to only eat their own food from home and snacks that are provided
3. Anything large or bulky that will make it difficult for students to carry



# Agrius Schools Homeschool Enrichment Program

## Program Overview

The Agrius Schools Homeschool Enrichment Program provides nature-based, experiential learning opportunities for homeschool students. The program complements home education through outdoor skill-building, social engagement, and ecological education aligned with the Colorado Department of Education's Standards.

## Cost

The Homeschool Enrichment Program is provided free of charge to qualifying homeschool families.

## Eligibility Requirements

To participate: - Students must be registered as homeschool students with their local school district - Students may not be concurrently enrolled in a public or charter school - Families must provide documentation verifying homeschool registration

## Program Expectations



- Participation is voluntary and enrichment-based
- Families remain responsible for primary academic instruction
- Students are expected to follow all Agrius Forest Schools policies, including the Code of Conduct and safety guidelines

#### Attendance and Participation

- Registration can be done for up to 3 days a week (full-time 9am-3pm), for individual sessions or the entire school year.  
We have a minimum capacity of 10 homeschool students and a maximum of 20 students per school year.
  - Families must notify the school of absences in advance when possible
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## Schedules and Calendars



2026/27 Agrius Forest Schools LLC: The Burrow Littleton Calendar

August 2026							September 2026							October 2026							November 2026							
S	M	T	W	Th	Fr	Sa	S	M	T	W	Th	Fr	Sa	S	M	T	W	Th	Fr	Sa	S	M	T	W	Th	Fr	Sa	
						1	30	31	1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3								
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						
December 2026							January 2027							February 2027							March 2027							
S	M	T	W	Th	Fr	Sa	S	M	T	W	Th	Fr	Sa	S	M	T	W	Th	Fr	Sa	S	M	T	W	Th	Fr	Sa	
						1							1	2	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	28	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28							28	29	30	31				
April 2027							May 2027							June 2027														
S	M	T	W	Th	Fr	Sa	S	M	T	W	Th	Fr	Sa	S	M	T	W	Th	Fr	Sa								
						1							1	30	31	2	3	4	5	6								
	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13								
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20								
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27								
25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31	26	27	28	29							

Table	Key
<b>First and Last Day of School</b> <b>Teacher In-Service Day (No School for Students)</b> <b>Sessions (11 weeks each)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fall Session August 3rd - November 19th (15 weeks)</li> <li>Winter Session November 30 - March 4th (12 weeks)</li> <li>Spring Session March 8th - June 25th (15 weeks)</li> </ul> <b>Holiday/Breaks (No School)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seasonal Breaks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fall October 12-15</li> <li>Winter December 22-31st</li> <li>Spring March 22nd-25th</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>Breaks:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fall Break October 12th-15th</li> <li>Thanksgiving Break November 23rd-26th</li> <li>Winter Break December 21-31</li> <li>Spring Break March 22nd-25th</li> </ul> <b>Federal Holidays:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Labor Day – September 7</li> <li>Thanksgiving Day – November 26</li> <li>Christmas Day – December 25</li> <li>New Year's Day – January 1</li> <li>Martin Luther King – January 18</li> <li>Presidents' Day – February 15</li> <li>Memorial Day – May 31</li> <li>Juneteenth (observed) – June 18</li> </ul>

\*Agrius Forest Schools are 4-day a week schools running from Monday - Thursday

\*There are 2 weather make-up days per session that will run on Fridays (outside of normal school hours)

Total Days: 162 with 10 Hours of Direct Instruction



Agrius Forest Schools LLC Daily Bell Schedule  
2026 - 2027 School Year Grades K-8

	A Day (Math and Science Intensive)	Reading, Writing and the Arts intensive)	A Day (Math and Science Intensive)	Reading, Writing and the Arts intensive)
<p style="text-align: center;">DROP OFF 9am at Waterton Canyon Parking Lot</p>				
Period 1 9:00 - 9:20	Observing the Natural World	Observing the Natural World	Observing the Natural World	Observing the Natural World
Period 2 9:25 - 9:45	Social Emotional Skills Weather review, journal setup, morning circle	Social Emotional Skills Weather review, journal setup, morning circle	Social Emotional Skills Weather review, journal setup, morning circle	Social Emotional Skills Weather review, journal setup, morning circle
Period 3 9:50 - 10:40	Math	Writing and Reading	Math	Writing and Reading
Period 5 10:45 - 11:35	Science and Ecology	History and Place-Based Learning	Science and Ecology	History and Place-Based Learning
LUNCH 11:40 - 12:40	Lunch and restoration	Lunch and restoration	Lunch and restoration	Lunch and restoration
Period 6 12:45-2:35	STEAM	Arts and Music	STEAM	Arts and Music
Period 7 2:40 - 3:30	History and Place-Based Learning	The art of science	History and Place-Based Learning	The art of science
Period 4 3:35 - 4:10	Skill building activity (Snack Time)	Skill building activity (Snack Time)	Skill building activity (Snack Time)	Skill building activity (Snack Time)
Period 9 4:15 - 4:30	Hike to pickup spot	Hike to pickup spot	Hike to pickup spot	Hike to pickup spot
<p style="text-align: center;">PICKUP 4:30 at Waterton Canyon Parking Lot</p>				