

Birthday Party Information



How can I get more information?

Email Jack Thibault at jack.thibault@natureforward.org.

When do you hold birthday parties?

We hold birthday parties on Saturdays and Sundays from 11:15 – 1:45.

How do I check availability?

To check the availability at Woodend, use the reservation system to check a particular date and time.

Do I need to register by a certain date?

Registration for parties closes two weeks (14 days) out. This ensures that both a naturalist and the Teale Center are available on the date of the party. We cannot guarantee availability for birthday parties after this time.

Dates and times are not guaranteed upon registration and are subject to change depending on facilities availability. If your selected time or date is not available, the birthday party coordinator will reach out and you will be given the opportunity to reschedule, or cancel and be fully refunded minus the registration fee.

How are birthday parties structured?

The first 15 minutes are for families to set up and the last 15 minutes are for takedown. The naturalist-led portion begins at 11:30 and runs for the duration of an hour and a half. The half hour between the naturalist-led program and takedown is reserved for cake, presents, or activities led by the participant's families.

Guests should arrive by **11:30**, when the naturalist-led program begins. The timeline for guests is 11:30-1:30.

How many children can come to the party?

The birthday party fee includes 15 children. The maximum number of attendees (including participants, siblings, and adults) is 25.

Can adults stay for the party?

Yes, until the maximum number of attendees is reached. However, we are on a 40-acre nature sanctuary with many trails, gardens, meadows, a gift shop, and access to Rock Creek, so we find that many adults like to explore during this time. We ask that at least one responsible adult for every eight kids remain with the party for group management.

What do you do if it is raining or snowing during the party?

We hold our birthday parties rain or shine and participants should dress appropriately for the weather. In case of severe or dangerous weather, we can hold the party entirely indoors or reschedule.

When will the naturalist leading the birthday party contact me?

The naturalist leading the birthday party will contact you the week of the party to answer any questions and go over any specific programming needs.

Do I need to be a member to have a birthday party?

No, you do not need to be a member of Nature Forward to schedule a birthday party.

Where are the birthday parties held?

Woodend Nature Sanctuary (Chevy Chase, MD): Birthday parties are held outside of the Edwin Way

Teale Learning Center, the first building on the right when you come up the driveway. Birthday parties cannot be held at our Nature Playspace or its' picnic area. Families and guests may only go to the Playspace after their party is over.

Can I use balloons or other decorations?

Balloons have a negative impact on wildlife and the environment and are not allowed at Woodend Sanctuary.

Decorations are allowed as long as they are cleaned up afterwards and can be put attached and removed without damaging the trees/structures or leaving residue.

Can I stay on the property after the party?

Participants must vacate the Teale Center at the conclusion of the party, but our grounds are open to the public from dawn until dusk.

Can I visit the area where the birthday parties are held?

While the grounds of Woodend Sanctuary are open to the public from dawn to dusk, the Teale Center and adjacent playground are closed to the public.

Can we serve food?

Families are welcome to provide food during the 30-minute family-led portion following the naturalist program. We have three benches and one covered platform for seating and/or serving food.

What is your cancellation policy:

Cancellation policy: 4 weeks or more in advance: full refund minus the \$15 registration fee. 2-4 weeks in advance: 50% refund minus the \$15 registration fee. Less than 2 weeks in advance: no refund.

Cancellations and date/time changes must be made in writing and emailed to jack.thibault@natureforward.org