

The background of the entire page is a delicate watercolor illustration. It features a variety of wildflowers, including purple lavender-like spikes, clusters of small blue forget-me-nots, and bright yellow buttercups. Green leaves of different shapes and sizes are scattered throughout. Three butterflies are also depicted: a yellow and black one in the upper right, and two orange and black ones in the lower right. The overall style is soft and artistic, with a focus on natural elements.

Wildflower Explorers

where curiosity grows

Parent & Explorer Handbook

Fall 2026

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Welcome, Dear Families

We are so glad you and your little explorer(s) are joining us this season. Wildflower Explorers was born from a simple belief that children thrive when they are free to wonder, wander, discover and learn through meaningful experiences in the natural.

This handbook is your guide to everything you need to know about our program—from what to pack in your explorer bag each week to how we handle rainy-day adventures. We want you to feel confident, informed, and excited about the journey ahead.

Our days are filled with farm walks, nature journaling, wildflower identification, storytelling under the willow tree, hands-on science investigations, seasonal art, and meaningful outdoor discovery. Every week brings a new theme rooted in the rhythms of the season.

We believe that the best classroom has a sky for a ceiling and dirt under tiny fingernails. Thank you for trusting us with your child's sense of wonder.

Whether this is your child's first outdoor learning experience or one of many adventures, we're honored to be part of their journey.

With gratitude and wildflowers,

Miss Daniela



Meet Your Guide

Miss Daniela

Nature Educator • Registered Nurse • Former Special Education Teacher • Homeschool Mom

Hi! I'm so glad you're here.

Wildflower Explorers was created from my love of helping children discover the world through curiosity, meaningful experiences, and time spent outdoors. As both a homeschool mother and former educator, I believe learning is most powerful when children are free to explore, ask questions, and make discoveries at their own pace.

I hold a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a bachelor's degrees in Elementary and Special Education, along with classroom teaching experience and more than 10 years as a registered nurse. Together, these experiences have shaped my approach to creating a learning environment that is safe, welcoming, and inclusive for every child.

At Wildflower Explorers, you'll find a blend of nature study, literature, science, art, movement, and hands-on exploration woven into every adventure. My goal is to nurture confidence, curiosity, kindness, and a lifelong appreciation for the natural world.

When I'm not leading Wildflower Explorers, you'll usually find me homeschooling my three children, photographing families, or exploring beautiful places with my camera in hand.

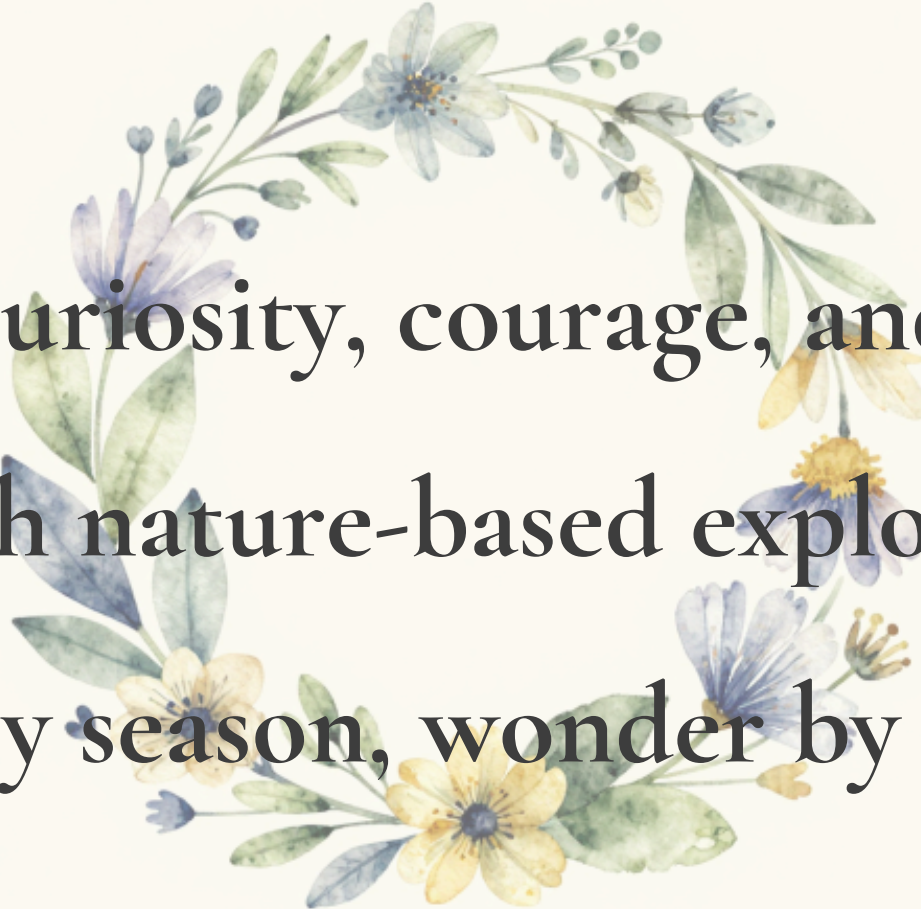
I can't wait to learn, wonder, and grow alongside your family this season.

With gratitude,

Miss Daniela



Our Mission



To nurture curiosity, courage, and connection
through nature-based exploration,
season by season, wonder by wonder.

We believe every child deserves unhurried time outdoors—space to dig, observe, question, and grow.

Getting Started

Everything you need to know before your first adventure



What Makes Wildflower Explorers Different



Nature-Led Curriculum

Every adventure begins outdoors. We follow the seasons, the weather, and the children's curiosity.



Small Group Size

Limited to just 10 families per session, allowing meaningful relationships, individualized guidance, and plenty of room for exploration.



Whole-Child Approach

Every gathering naturally weaves together storytelling, literature, art, movement, science, and hands-on discovery.



Family Partnership

Parents are valued partners in the learning journey. We provide seasonal guides, nature journals, and simple ideas to continue the wonder at home.

About The Wildflower Farm

Nestled in the heart of Monee, Illinois, The Wildflower Farm provides the perfect setting for children to slow down, explore, and connect with nature. Throughout the seasons, our explorers will wander flower fields, observe insects, identify wildflowers, listen to birdsong, and experience nature with all five senses.

Every trail, garden, and open field becomes an invitation to ask questions, solve problems, and build confidence through hands-on exploration. The farm provides the perfect outdoor classroom—safe, beautiful, and ever-changing with the seasons. Whether we're watching butterflies, collecting leaves, or simply sitting quietly beneath the trees, every visit offers new opportunities for wonder.

We are grateful to partner with The Wildflower Farm to give families a place where meaningful memories are made and a lifelong love of nature can take root.



Our Weekly Rhythm

9:00-9:10AM

Explorer Welcome & Free Exploration

Children settle in with open-ended outdoor play

9:10-9:20 AM

Morning Circle

Songs, poems, and introduction to the day's theme

9:20-9:35 AM

Story Time

Read the featured book for the week and discuss the theme with open-ended questions.

9:35-9:55 AM

Explorer Adventure

Guided walk, scavenger hunt, observation, collecting treasures, or outdoor investigation related to the week's topic.

9:55-10:15 AM

Wonder Workshop

Science experiment, sensory activity, process art, STEM challenge, or nature craft connected to the theme.

10:15-10:25 AM

Snack & Social Time

Wash hands, enjoy a simple snack, and practice conversation skills.

10:25-10:30 AM

Reflection Circle

Review what was learned, sing a goodbye song, share favorite discoveries, and preview next week.

Our mornings follow a gentle rhythm.
Times are approximate and may shift
slightly as we follow children's
interests, seasonal discoveries, and
weather conditions.



Explorer Passports

Every Wildflower Explorer receives a keepsake Explorer Passport to bring along on each adventure. As children complete each weekly theme, they'll earn a unique adventure stamp celebrating what they've discovered throughout the season. The Explorer Passport encourages curiosity, participation, confidence, and a sense of accomplishment as children watch their journey unfold—one adventure at a time.

🌻 Wildflower Explorer 🌸 Wildflower Wonders

🍎 Apples, Seeds & Soil

🌽 Harvest Helpers

🌿 Incredible Leaves 🐾 Wildlife Tracker

🎃 Pumpkin Scientist

🕸 Nature Engineers



Achievement Badges

Explorers earn these badges throughout the season as they complete nature challenges.



Wildflower Explorer

Learn the Wildflower Explorers Promise, safely explore the farm, identify one wildflower, and complete their first nature journal page.



Seed Scientist

Plant a seed, investigate the inside of an apple, identify the parts of a seed, and explain what plants need to grow.



Rock Collector

Find 3 types of rocks and classify them



Harvest Helper

Harvest produce respectfully, sort fruits and vegetables, help care for the garden or farm space, and practice gratitude for farmers.



Autumn Naturalist

Identify at least three different leaf shapes or colors, create leaf art, and explain why leaves change in the fall.



Leaf Detective

Search for different types of leaves, compare their sizes and textures, complete a leaf identification activity, and share one observation.



Animal Tracker

Identify local wildlife or signs animals leave behind (tracks, feathers, nests, or scat), observe respectfully, and record discoveries in their explorer journal.



Pumpkin Scientist

Explore the life cycle of a pumpkin, investigate what's inside a pumpkin, make predictions during a pumpkin experiment, and record observations.



Nature Engineer

Design and build a simple nature structure (such as a bird shelter, fairy house, or bug habitat) using natural materials and explain how it helps wildlife.

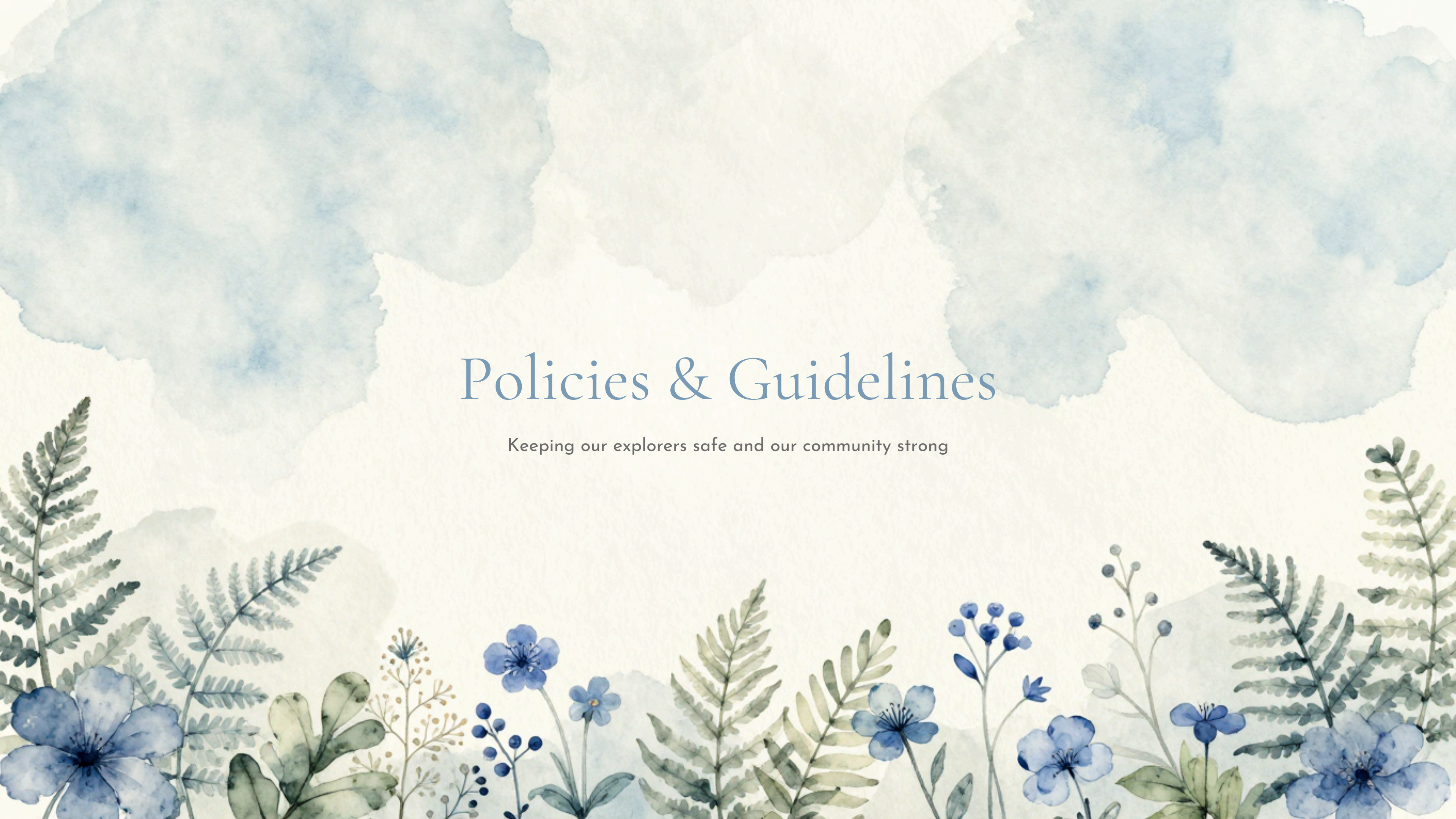
What to Bring

- ☐ Weather-appropriate clothing (layers recommended)
- ☐ Sturdy closed-toe shoes or rain boots
- ☐ Reusable water bottle (labeled)
- ☐ Healthy snack in a reusable container
- ☐ Sun hat or warm hat (depending on season)
- ☐ Sunscreen applied before arrival
- ☐ Change of clothes in a labeled bag
- ☐ Small backpack to carry belongings
- ☐ Nature journal & colored pencils
- ☐ Sense of adventure!

*Please label everything with your child's name.

Outdoor adventures are best enjoyed when explorers come prepared! Packing these essentials each week helps children stay comfortable, safe, and ready to discover.





Policies & Guidelines

Keeping our explorers safe and our community strong

Weather Policy

*"There is no such thing as bad weather,
only unsuitable clothing."*

We explore in almost all weather!

Light rain, cool mornings, and overcast skies are all part of the adventure.

Children learn resilience, adaptability, and joy in every kind of weather.

When We Cancel:

- Thunderstorms or lightning within 10 miles
 - Sustained winds above 35 mph
- Extreme heat advisories (heat index above 105 F)
 - Air quality alerts
- Severe weather warnings (tornado, flash flood)
 - Ice storms or dangerous road conditions
 - Temperatures below 25 F with wind chill

Communication:

You will receive a text message by 7:00 AM if we need to modify or cancel.

Makeup days are scheduled at the end of each month.



Safety & Well-Being

Your child's safety is our highest priority.

Our Safety Practices:

- Daily site checks before children arrive
- Clearly defined boundaries for each exploration zone
- Tick checks and hand washing
- First aid kit and emergency supplies on-site at all times
- Emergency action plan posted and practiced monthly

Allergies & Medical Needs:

Please complete the medical form in your enrollment packet. We keep EpiPens and inhalers on-site for children who need them. All staff are trained in their administration.

Supervision:

Children are never left unattended. During free exploration, staff position themselves to maintain visual contact with all children while allowing space for independent discovery.



Parent Expectations

We are partners in your child's outdoor education.

To make this experience wonderful for everyone, we ask that families:

- **Arrive on time** - Morning circle begins promptly at 9:10 AM
- **Dress for the weather** - Check the forecast and send your child prepared
- **Communicate openly** - Share anything that might affect your child's day
- **Trust the process** - Muddy clothes and scraped knees are part of healthy outdoor play
- **Respect our boundaries** - Please respect the farm grounds including all of buildings, structures, property, animals, and plants.
- **Engage at home** - Ask about discoveries and look at their nature journal together



Seasonal Adventures

A peek at the wonder waiting each week



September Adventures

September Theme: Welcome to the Farm

Week 1: September 9, 2026: Welcome to Wildflower Farm

Children begin their journey as Wildflower Explorers! They'll learn farm rules, explore the land, discover wildflowers, and start their nature journals. Children begin their Wildflower Explorers journey by discovering the farm, learning explorer skills, and using their senses to observe the natural world around them.

Week 2: September 16, 2026: Wildflower Wonders

Children explore the beauty of wildflowers, discover what makes each flower unique, and learn how flowers support the farm and its pollinators.

Week 3: September 23, 2026: Apples, Seeds & Soil

Children investigate the beginning of plant life by exploring apples, seeds, soil, and what plants need to grow.

Week 4: September 30, 2026: Harvest Helpers

Children discover the magic of harvest season while learning where food comes from, how farms work, and how we care for the land.



October Adventures

 *October Theme: Amazing Autumn Explorers*

Week 1: October 7, 2026: Incredible Leaves

Children will investigate the changing world of leaves and discover how trees prepare for autumn. Explorers will use their senses to observe colors, shapes, textures, and patterns while learning how leaves tell a story about the changing seasons.

Week 2: October 14, 2026: Forest Friends

Children discover the animals that call the farm home and learn how wildlife adapts, finds shelter, and prepares for changing seasons.

Week 3: October 21, 2026: Pumpkin Science

Children become scientists as they investigate pumpkins through hands-on experiments, observations, and discoveries

Week 4: October 28, 2026: Nature Engineers

Children explore how nature's builders create amazing structures and use creativity to design their own nature-inspired creations.



Frequently Asked Questions

What is Wildflower Explorers Homeschool Club?

Wildflower Explorers Homeschool Club is a family-centered homeschool enrichment program at Wildflower Farm designed to bring homeschooling families together for hands-on learning, outdoor exploration, and meaningful community. Through nature studies, science exploration, farm-based learning, creative projects, and seasonal activities, children are encouraged to ask questions, discover new interests, and develop a deeper appreciation for the world around them.

What ages is Wildflower Explorers Homeschool Club designed for?

Wildflower Explorers Homeschool Club is designed for children ages 4-12. Children ages 3 and under are welcome to attend at no additional cost with a registered family. However, materials, supplies, and activity components are only provided for registered participants ages 4-12.

Are parents required to stay during Wildflower Explorers Homeschool Club?

Yes. Wildflower Explorers Homeschool Club is a family-participation program, and a parent or caregiver is required to remain with their child throughout each gathering. Parents are encouraged to participate alongside their children, support their learning, and connect with other homeschool families. Our goal is to foster a welcoming community where families can learn, explore, and grow together.

What will children do during Homeschool Club?

Each gathering includes engaging, hands-on activities designed to encourage curiosity and exploration. Activities may include: Nature studies and observation: Farm-based learning, Gardening, Science experiments, Art and creative projects, Seasonal activities, Wildlife and plant exploration, Outdoor games and exploration, STEM challenges, Literature connections and storytelling. Each meeting is thoughtfully planned while leaving room for children's questions, discoveries, and interests.

Is Wildflower Explorers Homeschool Club a co-op?

No. Wildflower Explorers is a homeschool enrichment club, not a homeschool co-op. Families remain responsible for their own homeschool curriculum. Our club is designed to supplement your homeschool journey by providing engaging educational experiences, opportunities for social connection, and hands-on learning that can be difficult to recreate at home.

What teaching philosophy does the club follow?

Our program is built around hands-on, experiential learning. We believe children learn best when they are actively engaged, asking questions, making observations, solving problems, and interacting with the world around them. Activities encourage curiosity, creativity, critical thinking, teamwork, and confidence while allowing children the freedom to explore and learn through experience.

What should my child wear?

Most activities take place outdoors, so children should come dressed for the weather and ready to explore. We recommend: Comfortable play clothes ,Closed-toe shoes, Weather-appropriate layers ,Sun hat and sunscreen during warm weather, Rain boots or rain gear when appropriate, A change of clothes if desired. We embrace getting a little messy—it's often part of the learning!

Does the club meet in all weather?

Whenever possible, yes. Light rain and cooler temperatures can create wonderful learning opportunities. If severe weather or unsafe conditions are expected, families will be notified as soon as possible regarding cancellations or schedule changes.

Frequently Asked Questions Cont.

Does the club meet in all weather?

Whenever possible, yes. Light rain and cooler temperatures can create wonderful learning opportunities. If severe weather or unsafe conditions are expected, families will be notified as soon as possible regarding cancellations or schedule changes.

What if my child is shy or hesitant?

Every child participates differently, and that's okay! Our welcoming environment allows children to join activities at their own pace. We gently encourage participation while respecting each child's comfort level.

What if my child has allergies, medical needs, or learning accommodations?

Please let us know about any allergies, medical concerns, or accommodations during registration. Daniela's background in nursing and special education helps create a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment where children of varying abilities and learning styles can thrive.

Are snacks provided?

Snack information will be included with each event registration. Families may be asked to bring their own snacks or water depending on the activity. Please notify us of any food allergies during registration.

Can siblings attend?

Yes! Children ages 3 and under may attend with their family at no additional cost but will not receive activity materials or supplies. Older siblings who wish to participate in club activities should be registered if they fall within the program's age range.

What should we bring?

We recommend bringing: Water bottle, Weather-appropriate clothing, Comfortable walking shoes, Sunscreen or bug spray (if needed), A backpack for personal belongings, A sense of curiosity and adventure! Any additional materials needed for a specific activity will be communicated before the meeting.

How often does the club meet?

Explorers meet once each week during the gall session. Families may choose either the Wednesday or Friday group, with both group meeting from 9:00-10:30 AM.

How do I register?

Registration information, upcoming themes, dates, pricing, and availability are available through Wildflower Explorers. Advance registration is required each session attended, as space is limited.

What makes Wildflower Explorers Homeschool Club unique?

Wildflower Explorers combines quality education, outdoor exploration, and meaningful community in a welcoming environment designed specifically for homeschool families.

The program is led by Daniela Schultz Pearson, who holds a Bachelor's degree in Elementary and Special Education, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, has two years of classroom teaching experience, and over 10 years of experience as a registered nurse. Her unique background allows her to create engaging, hands-on learning experiences that are educational, inclusive, and developmentally appropriate while fostering curiosity, confidence, and a lifelong love of learning.

Get in Touch

We love hearing from our families.

Don't hesitate to reach out with questions, ideas, or just to say hello!

Email

daniela@wildflowerupick.com

Phone

(708) 224-8367

Website

www.wildflowerupick.com/explorers

Instagram

@wildflowerexplorersclub

Address

11332 W. Dralle Rd. Monee, IL 60449

Hours

Wednesdays 9-10:30 AM

Fridays 9-10:30 AM



A young girl with long, wavy brown hair is shown from the back, looking down and smelling a pink cosmos flower. She is wearing a white hair clip with a unicorn head and colorful sprinkles. The background is a lush field of various colored cosmos flowers (pink, orange, red) and green foliage, slightly out of focus. The lighting is soft and natural, suggesting a sunny day.

*"In every walk with nature,
one receives far more than he seeks."*

- John Muir



A detailed watercolor illustration of various wildflowers and butterflies. The composition includes purple lavender-like flowers on the left, blue forget-me-nots scattered throughout, and bright yellow buttercups on the right. Two monarch-style butterflies with orange and black wings are depicted in flight. Green foliage and stems are interspersed among the flowers. The central text is framed by a thin horizontal line.

Wildflower Explorers Club

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"Let them be little. Let them be wild."