

## **Gear Lists: Overview for All Programs**

Giving Gardens of Indiana programs operate in ALL types of weather, so your child needs to be prepared for all weather conditions. Gear is incredibly important for your child's experience, so please prepare thoroughly. Let us know if you have any questions as we are happy to help!

It is very helpful if you have clothes that are designated just for Giving Gardens of Indiana programs. Please make sure that the clothes your children wear are clothes that can get wet, dirty, and/or ripped. Giving Gardens staff are not responsible for stained or damaged items.

Oaki does offer us a discount for our school of 25% off orders of \$29.99+. Here is the code if you choose to purchase from them.

[www.Oaki.com](http://www.Oaki.com)

Discount Code: WildWillow

You can also purchase gear from our Amazon Affiliate Shop. Each purchase gives back to the organization!

<https://amzn.to/43jXL1s>

**Please find what to bring each week for your child's specific program below:**

## **Gear List: Nature Programs**

### **What to bring each class:      Label EVERYTHING**

- **Kid sized daypack/backpack** - one that's comfortable for your child to wear throughout the day
- **FULL water bottle** - please decide how much water to pack based on your child's needs. If a child is regularly finishing their water before the end of the day, a facilitator will ask you to pack more.
- **Handkerchief**
- **Snack** - Please pack all food in lightweight, reusable, containers. (See more info below)

- **FULL rain gear** - rain boots, raincoat AND rain pants (see more info below)
- **Extra change of clothes** - in a Ziploc bag or wet bag - wet clothes will potentially be placed in the bag after changing to be sent home. Please pack a full change of clothes, including underwear and socks.
- **Safety gear**- handkerchief, hat
- **Beach Towel**- useful for water play and ground sitting
- **Metal mug attached to outside of backpack with Carabiner**- We have tea/hot chocolate or water.

**Optional:** binoculars, field guides, compass, insect & tick repellent, sunscreen, small quick-dry towel, headlamp or flashlight, show-and-tell nature items, anything your child needs to feel comfortable in the woods.

**\*\*Please keep in mind that your child is responsible for carrying all of their own gear each day and pack according to their level of ability. Rain gear, extra clothing and towels can come in a separate bag that they don't have to carry in their backpack to reduce weight.**

### **What to Wear:**

Please pay attention to weather forecasts and have your child dress appropriately. If severe weather is anticipated, we will send an alert through Brightwheel.

If a child comes blatantly ill-prepared for the weather, we will do our best with what we have to dress them appropriately. Safety is our number one priority, so if this is not possible, they may have to be sent home. We do not want children getting sick from being cold and wet for several hours. Thank you for your cooperation!

### **Warm Weather:**

1. **Lightweight long pants-at Morsches or in the woods. Shorts are fine at the Farm**
  - Athletic or hiking pants work best, lightweight and breathable. Thin cotton leggings have a tendency to catch on thorns and rip easily. Denim is made from cotton, can be very uncomfortable if it becomes wet, and takes a long time to dry.
  - Long pants are recommended, even on the hottest days, because they offer protection from poison ivy, thorns and insects. However, we understand that shorts can be much more comfortable in our climate. If you do decide to allow your child to wear shorts, we simply ask that you be aware of the heightened risk for the above hazards.
2. **Closed toe shoes**

- Rain boots are recommended, even on dry days. We tend to play in the mud/water often, and kids without waterproof boots are often hesitant to join in the fun. Bog or Muck boots are good brands.
- Water shoes can keep the feet cool and still have traction and are inexpensive.
- Hiking boots, rain boots or durable sneakers are also allowed, but keep in mind they may (probably) get wet, muddy or torn.
- Children may be allowed to go barefoot for portions of the day, but this is at the discretion of facilitators after checking the area for hazards.

3. **Short sleeved shirt that wicks away perspiration or tank top**

4. **Lightweight long sleeved button up shirt or jacket layered on top to keep bugs off skin**

5. **Sun hats**

6. **Optional Items:**

- Brimmed hat for sun protection
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Insect Repellent
- Insect netting

\*If your child needs sunscreen or insect repellent during warm weather, we have some available, but please apply before the beginning of the program.

## **Cold Weather:**

1. **Base layer made of wool/wool blend, polyester or other synthetic material.**

- Athletic or hiking pants with synthetic leggings (not cotton) underneath for added warmth.
- Layer up the leggings if needed.
- Denim is not recommended - it is made from cotton and is very problematic if it becomes wet, especially in cold weather.
- 
- Cotton is rendered useless for warmth the moment water or sweat comes into contact with it. We cannot stress this enough. If it's particularly cold, or your child is extra sensitive to being cold, you can layer up with extra base layers.
- Good brand for base layers [https://www.polarfleeceusa.com/THERMAL\\_LAYERS/](https://www.polarfleeceusa.com/THERMAL_LAYERS/)  
Smart Wool- Merino wool  
[REI- Base layers](#)

2. **Mid layer of fleece or wool**

- down or synthetic insulation is great (down is warmer)

### 3. **Wind resistant/ Waterproof outer layer**

- A rain jacket over an insulated coat works well for extra wind protection and waterproofing.
- Snow suit: MK Nordika: <https://www.mknordika.com/product/bjornen-winter-snow-suit/>
- 
- Rain Suit, [Oaki](#) , [Tuffo](#) , [Splashy](#) , [Mk Nordika](#)
- Rain Suit 2 piece: [Celavi](#), kids 10+ who are taller 2 [piece rain suit](#) , [TideWe](#)
- Waterproof Overalls : [Reima](#)

### 4. **Head Gear**

- [Warm hat](#) or headband that covers ears and a hood
- Mk Nordika: <https://www.mknordika.com/product/biggles-winter-hat/>
- 
- Necks: Neck Warmer/Infinity scarf- Wool or Fleece.

### 5. **Feet**

- Warm, tall socks- Wool Socks or Fleece
- Not so thick that circulation to toes is hindered. This can have a reverse effect and make feet feel even colder. Sometimes, two layers of thin socks can be better than socks that are too thick for the shoes. Sweat wicking socks are great for keeping feet even warmer.
- Brand: [Smart Wool winter sport socks-knee high](#)
- Warm, waterproof boots
- We recommend neoprene, insulated rain boots. Feet can become wet even on dry days from puddles, so waterproof shoes are really important when it's cold.
- Brand: [Bogs](#) or Muck
- Feeling warm enough can make or break your child's experience for the day. When in doubt, over prepare. It is better to have an extra layer that isn't needed than to spend a day uncomfortably cold.

### 6. **Gloves/Mittens**

These are one of the MOST important items to get quality/ waterproof and warm. If you can afford to purchase 2 pairs, I would highly recommend that. Here are a few we recommend: Mittens are warmer than individual fingered gloves. You could get a pair of each.

- Burton:  
<https://www.evo.com/gloves/burton-gore-tex-kids?gclid=CjwKCAiA9tyQBhAIEiWA6tdCrMRTIB-4YuXX1YlwMhbn-dGF5p0eXYE8CA67kNWMGtdtgWHpgG0jnhOC0>

[QoQAvD\\_BwE&image=195644/837392/burton-gore-tex-gloves-big-kids-.jpg&avd=281561\\_f2b9f8949&a=Avantlink&utm\\_source=AL&utm\\_medium=Affiliate&utm\\_campaign=55193](https://www.burton.com/media/195644/837392/burton-gore-tex-gloves-big-kids-.jpg&avd=281561_f2b9f8949&a=Avantlink&utm_source=AL&utm_medium=Affiliate&utm_campaign=55193)

- 
- Reima: <https://us.reima.com/products/kids-reimatec-ski-mittens-snoukka>
- Reima: <https://us.reima.com/products/kids-reimatec-ski-gloves-skimba>
- Henstra All Mountain CZone Junior 5 finger gloves:  
[https://www.amazon.com/Hestra-Ski-Gloves-Kids-Waterproof/dp/B06XW85D7J?crd=2E4MJRF9MYM1I&dchild=1&keywords=Hestra+All+Mountain+CZone+Jr+Glove&qid=1635528746&sprex=hestra+all+mountain+czone+jr+glove.aps.124&sr=8-5&linkCode=sl1&tag=bringthekids-20&linkId=b8e21c73975aa28e4c9dd296a1e086c5&language=en\\_US&ref\\_=as\\_li\\_ss\\_tl](https://www.amazon.com/Hestra-Ski-Gloves-Kids-Waterproof/dp/B06XW85D7J?crd=2E4MJRF9MYM1I&dchild=1&keywords=Hestra+All+Mountain+CZone+Jr+Glove&qid=1635528746&sprex=hestra+all+mountain+czone+jr+glove.aps.124&sr=8-5&linkCode=sl1&tag=bringthekids-20&linkId=b8e21c73975aa28e4c9dd296a1e086c5&language=en_US&ref_=as_li_ss_tl)
- Dakine :  
[https://www.amazon.com/Dakine-Kids-Avenger-Gore-Tex-Snow/dp/B00118SVHE/ref=sr\\_1\\_10?crd=2MX7OY43J8ML9&keywords=Dakine+kids+waterproof+mitten&qid=1666116797&sprex=dakine+kids+waterproof+mitten%2Caps%2C100&sr=8-10](https://www.amazon.com/Dakine-Kids-Avenger-Gore-Tex-Snow/dp/B00118SVHE/ref=sr_1_10?crd=2MX7OY43J8ML9&keywords=Dakine+kids+waterproof+mitten&qid=1666116797&sprex=dakine+kids+waterproof+mitten%2Caps%2C100&sr=8-10)
- Outer waterproof shell:  
<https://www.polarnopyretusa.com/waterproof-shell-cuff-mitten-2-6yrs/>

## **Rain Gear:**

### **1. Coats, Rain Suit, Pants**

- Rain Suit, [Oaki](#) , [Tuffo](#) , [Splashy](#)
- Rain Suit 2piece: [Celavi](#), [2piece rain suit](#), [TideWe](#)
- Waterproof Overalls : [Reima](#)
- Tip: Keep rain pants on the outside of the boots, not tucked in. When they are tucked in, water runs straight down the pants and inside the boots.

### **2. Non insulated Rain boots:**

[Oaki](#)

Or any brand you choose

### **3. Insulated Rain boot:**

[Inexpensive neoprene boot](#)

[Bogs](#)

- We recommend neoprene, insulated boots for colder months.

4. **Optional:**

- A hat with a bill is helpful for keeping rain off of the face [Sealskinz](#)

## What NOT to Bring

**Toys** - they can be distracting for your child and others.

**Knives or other weapons (including toy weapons)** - knives may be allowed for older children on a case by case basis, but must be approved by a program facilitator in advance.

**Drinks other than water** - It's important for kids to stay hydrated during our programs, and having other beverages can distract them from drinking enough water.

**Candy** - Our programs require lots of energy, and sugary foods are not a sustainable source of energy. Please see more about this in the "Snack & Lunch" section below.

**Umbrellas or Ponchos (exception: Forest Families)** - They get in the way and are a hassle to carry around. Opt instead for full rain gear, and an umbrella or poncho will not be necessary. A hat with a bill is a great choice for keeping rain out of the face, and can usually fit underneath the hood of a rain jacket.

**Things you don't want to get wet or dirty** - Everything that is brought to Nature Connect has the potential to get wet, dirty, and/or otherwise damaged.