Sliding Scale Guide

Every family should have access to the forest school experience. A sliding scale is a cost-sharing tuition system that reflects our values of accessibility. This system functions as a community collective approach to ensure school tuition costs do not create a financial strain, hardship, or barrier for families to attend Spire School.

How do I estimate my family's range of contribution to our total tuition?

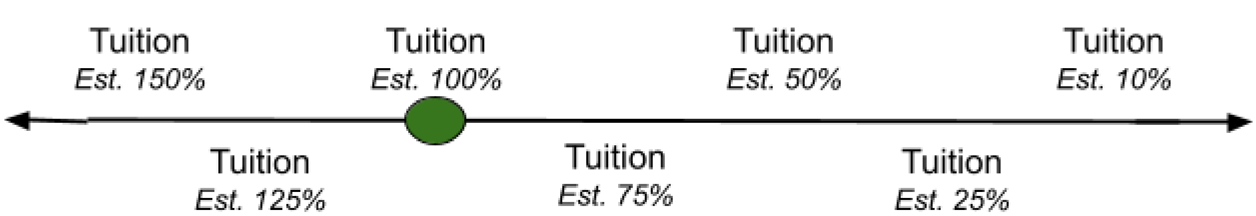
The Sliding Scale Tuition is based on your *personal financial experience*. Spire School values the integrity of community members to identify their own needs, so we do not require any proof of income. Below is a guide to support you as you identify the estimated range that is best attuned to your family's needs.

Barriers affecting access to a forest school may include:

- ➔ Lack of transportation or limited access to consistent transportation
- ➔ Lack of access to no-cost or low-cost child care/preschool spots
- ➔ Lack of providers in the geographical area of residence
- ➔ Lack of access to land reconnection
- ➔ Lack of providers who utilize a culturally sustaining lens
- ➔ Inadequate support for child-care/preschool services in safety net settings (Head Start, other sliding scale program offerings, etc).

Sliding Scale Tuition

Est. %= Estimated Percent of Family Contribution Towards Tuition



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Spire School Full Tuition +	← Spire School Full Tuition →	Tuition Sliding Scale
• I am comfortably able to meet all of my basic* needs. • I may have some debt but it does not prohibit the attainment of basic needs. • I own my home or property OR I rent a higher-end property. • I own or lease a car. • I am employed or do not need to work to meet my needs. • I have regular access to health care. • I have access to financial savings. • I have an expendable** income. • I can always buy new items. • I can afford an annual vacation or take time off.	• I may stress about meeting my basic needs, but still regularly achieve them. • I may have some debt, but it doesn't prohibit the attainment of basic needs. • I own or rent my own home/apartment and I am not worried about my ability to make mortgage or rent on time. • I own or lease a car. • I am employed. • I have access to health care. • I might have access to financial savings. • I have some expendable** income. • I can buy some new items & I thrift others. • I can take a vacation annually or every few years without a financial burden.	• I frequently stress about meeting my basic needs and don't always achieve them. • I have debt and it sometimes prohibits me from meeting my basic needs. • I rent lower-end housing or have unstable housing. • I do not have a car and/or have limited access to a car, but I am not always able to afford gas. • I am unemployed or underemployed. • I qualify for government assistance including calfresh & health care. • I have no access to savings. • I have no or very limited expendable income. • I rarely buy new items because I am unable to afford them. • I cannot afford a vacation or have the ability to take time off without a financial burden.

If you would like to submit a Sliding Scale Tuition Request Form,
please email us for more details.

Notes :
**BASIC NEEDS include food, housing, and transportation.*
***EXPENDABLE INCOME might mean you are able to buy coffee or tea at a shop, go to the movies or a concert, buy new clothes, books, and similar items each month, book vacations outside of your geographical residence, etc.*

Credit: The above sliding scale description was modeled after a sliding scale developed by SoulCareCollective, an "online space dedicated to supporting and enhancing the psychological well-being of Black, Brown, and Indigenous people across the diaspora."