



Wild Explorers

What to Bring/Gear List

"There's no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing"
Alfred Wainwright

Having the right gear is essential to your child's safety, comfort, and success at Wild Explorers. This gear list is detailed and specific—shaped by years of hands-on experience in all kinds of weather. At the bottom, you'll find helpful links and recommendations to guide your choices.

We understand that high-quality outdoor gear is an investment, and we're committed to making sure every child in our program is properly equipped for each season. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you need support.

Between our growing gear lending library, available scholarship funds, and a director who loves tracking down a great deal—we're here to help you find what you need!

Everyday What to Bring:

- ☐ Durable **backpack** that is labeled packed with the following:
- ☐ Stainless steel leak proof **water bottle** filled with water only
- ☐ Nourishing **snack**
- ☐ A full **change of clothes** for the season:
 - ☐ **Pants** or **shorts** or both
 - ☐ Long or short sleeve **shirt** or both
 - ☐ Extra **hoodie/fleece** on cooler days
 - ☐ **Socks** (x2 pairs)
 - ☐ Soft extra **mittens or gloves** on cooler days (x 2 pairs)
- ☐ Change of **shoes***

**Important note about SHOES:*

Children should have two pairs of shoes with them each day. One being rain boots (or snow boots in the winter). The second being shoes appropriate for the season that allow them to run and that can get dirty. Oftentimes boots get wet and we need to switch shoes. Two pairs of boots work.

Rainy/Wet/Muddy Days

- ☐ Quality, fully waterproof **rain jacket** (should feel like rubber on the outside)
- ☐ Rain pants/bibs or rain suit (especially helpful for younger friends)
- ☐ Fleece lined **waterproof mittens**

Cold/Snowy Days

- ☐ Synthetic or wool **base layer** (pants, shirt, socks- no cotton)
 - This is the MOST important layer to staying comfortable and safe on cold days as it regulates their temperature and wicks away moisture from the skin.
 - When the temperature is below 32 degrees, we will ensure each child has this layer on at drop off to stay for class that day.
- ☐ **Fleece mid layer**
 - This is primarily a fleece jacket/hoodie though sometimes a mid-layer pair of pants is necessary. A fleece is required to be worn for temperatures below 50 degrees. A second pair of pants should be worn over the base layer when temperatures are below 32 degrees.
- ☐ Outer layer
 - ☐ Insulated, waterproof **snow coat**
 - ☐ Waterproof **snow pants** with buckles at top
 - ☐ **Warm hat** (ideally fleece lined) that stays on and covers ears
 - ☐ **Waterproof, fleece lined long cuff mittens** (absolutely no finger gloves)
 - ☐ Pair of **soft mittens or gloves** to layer under waterproof pair on extra cold days or to wear on less cold days

Please label gear (especially gloves and hats) on the tag whenever possible!!

Everyday What to Wear

- ☐ Play clothes! Do not dress your child in clothes that you would not be okay with getting muddy/dirty/full of paint.
- ☐ Shoes that allow for running and can get wet/dirty. Bring rain boots to every class as they are great footwear for the woods no matter the weather
- ☐ Please apply bug spray/sunscreen before class when needed

What Not to Bring

- Toys from home, please keep them in the car
- Juice or other non-water drinks
- Tools from home (the only tools at school should be ones provided by LGS unless specific permission has been given from a Wild Explorer Leader)

Gear Recommendations

Not all clothing and gear are created equally and a lot of times it requires sourcing from online versus local stores. This list is by no means comprehensive. If you are unsure about any piece of gear that you have on hand or are looking to purchase please reach out!

Favorite Places to Source Gear

- Outdoor School Shop: <https://outdoorschoolshop.com/>
- Sierra: <https://www.sierra.com/> (Their offerings vary but they often get quality brands. Usually they have affordable smartwool socks)
- Target (rain jackets and soft mittens)
- Once Upon a Child or Kentucky Kids Consignment Elizabethtown Sale (rain jackets, rain boots and seasonally winter jackets snow pants)
- H&M (wool underlayer)
- REI
- Amazon (hats, mittens, socks, etc.)

Base Layer: H&M is where I've found the most affordable wool base layers. Be sure whatever base layer you choose does not have cotton. It should be fully synthetic (polyester), bamboo, or wool.

Waterproof Mittens: I cannot emphasize enough how important the right mittens are. This is definitely a good place to spend a little more! Look for fleece-lined rain mittens with a long cuff. Fleece-lined rain mittens are plenty warm for KY winters. Snow gloves are usually over-insulated and children cannot use their hands as well. For the few cold days we get, a soft mitten can be layered under their fleece lined rain mittens on extra cold days. From experience they are the most flexible gloves that stay on and keep water out.

-A good option: [Muddy Puddles Rain Mittens](#)

Rain Jacket: Please ensure that whatever rain jacket you chose is waterproof. Many rain jackets are not actually waterproof. If it doesn't feel like rubber on the outside it most likely is NOT waterproof.

-A favorite brand is Reima. Target also carries decent rain jackets.

Socks: For the winter, look for wool socks as they are the best at regulating temperature. Smartwool makes kids socks. <https://www.sierra.com/> is a great place to find them inexpensively or <https://outdoorschoolshop.com/>

Hat: Look for a hat that is warm and stays on. A balaclava could be a good option for some.

Snowsuit/Snow Jacket/Snow Boots: For what we need in KY, most any snow suit, snow jacket, or snow boot will do.

Questions about gear? Email Katie at littlegardenplay@gmail.com or text at 719-338-6327.