



Founded in 2000, Two Coyotes is a non-profit nature mentoring organization that connects people to nature, community, and self.

**Coyote Village Program
at Deer Lake Outdoor Center in Killingworth, CT
2026-27 School Year**

Program Overview

Two Coyotes Wilderness School's Coyote Village program is a wilderness-based educational program for children ages 5 to 17 years old. Students spend one full day each week learning while immersed in nature. The program draws both students who are homeschooled or attend public/private school and is designed to complement your child's educational experience in any of those settings, in ways unique to outdoor education.

Time in nature is an important part of growing strong and healthy brains and bodies. It is also vital for developing confidence, self-esteem, resilience and character. At Coyote Village, students explore the natural world with curiosity. They learn how to make fires, build shelters, identify plants and animal tracks, and make tools and crafts with their hands. Led by our skilled mentors through challenges and reflection in nature, they develop a deep understanding of who they are, what they value, and what their gifts are.

Our programs weave together team-building activities with community celebrations that honor students, and bring together parents, elders, and youth. Core practices like gratitude, song, and storytelling help to remind the students of the important things in life and give perspective while connecting the group.

How our Program Supports Your Child's Learning

Research shows that time in nature supports a variety of positive outcomes, including creativity and problem-solving, enhanced cognitive ability, improved academic performance, improved social relations, improved self-discipline, and reduced stress.

The Coyote Village School Year Program becomes a powerful learning environment with nature as a dynamic teacher combined with the natural curiosity of your child. Through mentor-led inquiry and process-based learning, your child will investigate the natural world, use observations to answer their questions, and synthesize facts into knowledge applicable to life. This cultivates students' innate curiosity and a passion for learning that will serve them when they are back in the classroom and in their future careers.



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A Typical Day

Coyote Village starts each day with nature games and a gratitude circle. Mentors facilitate the co-creation of group agreements based on safety rules and a shared code of conduct. As the mentors get to know the interests and edges of the students in their group, they introduce earth living and naturalist skills that deepen over the arc of a season as students observe, ask questions, and apply what they've learned to hands-on projects. This may include:

- Learning animals' patterns by sneaking invisibly through the forest or learning bird language
- Building forts & shelters
- Making handmade tools and crafts from natural materials
- Identifying wild edibles and medicinal plants; using them to make salves and cook feasts
- Sitting quietly in reflection and observing the environment; journaling
- Starting a fire without matches

In addition, our days are filled with storytelling, playing in the river, and games that help students process what they are learning. Woven throughout are lessons in peacemaking and nonviolent communication, challenge activities, and teamwork. We close each day in a circle sharing stories of our day and a group song.

Communicating with your Child's School

- Notify your school administrator that you plan to enroll your child in the Coyote Village Program and provide them with a basic overview of the program, along with a personal note about how you believe participation in the program will benefit your child.
- Two Coyotes can report weekly attendance to the school. Schools typically mark children as present for that day and have considered children to be on a weekly field trip or learning in an alternate environment.
 - Former CT Education Commissioner Dianna Wentzell indicated that a program similar to Coyote Village, operated by Common Ground in New Haven, is an excellent personalized learning opportunity for students and is an acceptable way to count attendance.
- Work with your child's teacher to make accommodations to allow them to stay on track with their schoolwork, such as preparing homework packets. You may also discuss how your child could share what they learned at Two Coyotes with their classmates.
- Depending on your child's needs in school, you may also communicate with the social worker and/or special education teacher to track their progress.



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Program Details

Coyote Village is offered on the following schedule at Deer Lake Outdoor Center in Killingworth, CT:

- FALL: Sept 15 – Nov 24, make up class Dec 1, community events and one week off to be confirmed.
- WINTER: Jan 5 – Feb 23, make up class Mar 2.
- SPRING: Mar 16 – May 18, make up class May 25, community events to be confirmed.

The program is designed for students from 5-17, with students aged 5-7 in our Wild Seeds group, students aged 8-12 in Black Foxes, and teens aged 13-17 in Fire Keepers.

Tuition for the Coyote Village Program is part of our [Equitable Pricing Tiers](#). Tuition can be paid in full or on a monthly payment plan. You may request a scholarship when you register.

Weather cancellations and delay policy: Our programming operates outdoors rain or shine, with possible access to indoor accommodations for dangerous or hazardous conditions. Programs are typically canceled due to dangerous weather and driving conditions. Parents will be notified of cancellations and delays by email. More information on weather preparedness, cancellations, and delays will be included in your parent handbook.

Who We Are

Two Coyotes Wilderness School is a non-profit nature mentoring organization that connects people to nature, community, and self. We design interdisciplinary programs that provide a dynamic environment for students to face challenges, engage their natural curiosity, and cultivate an intrinsic love for learning that they bring back into the classroom and the rest of their lives.

We believe that nature connection is our birthright, and that catching frogs, muddy knees, and exploring wild places are essential to growing up strong and healthy. We believe that long-term nature mentoring can help children to thrive and navigate the many stages of their lives. Our mentors help children understand who they are, what their gifts are, and how to bring them to the world. We believe that this work is essential to creating a healthier, more connected future.

We are committed to ensuring that Two Coyotes programming is accessible, welcoming, and inclusive of all children and families in Connecticut.