



Thorne Nature Preschool-Lafayette

Fact Sheet

Location: South Public Trailhead

Ages: 3-6 years old

Time: 9:00AM - 1:30PM for a 2-week session

Description

Thorne Nature Preschool Summer Sessions are the perfect introduction to exploring outdoors for budding nature lovers.

Students will spend the day playing, exploring the creek, meandering along the trail on adventure walks, sharing stories in the shade of the cottonwood trees, creating new friendships, filling their journals with pictures and words, connecting to the land, and so much more! Each session, themes and projects will be driven by student interest, and supported by skilled teachers, so children can return for multiple sessions and learn new things each time!

A 5:1 maximum student-to-teacher ratio will ensure your child receives all the attention and care they need while they get used to attending preschool and learning and playing in nature. Please remember, **children must be fully potty trained** before their first day of preschool summer sessions.

We look forward to spending time in nature with your children this summer!

Pick up & Drop off Location

[Public Road Trailhead](#): S. Public Rd., Lafayette, CO 80026

Times

Morning Drop-Off: 9:00am

Pick-up Time: 1:30pm

Extended Care

- Drop off for students enrolled in **early care** is **8:30am** at the
 - [Public Road Trailhead](#): S. Public Rd., Lafayette, CO 80026
- Students enrolled in **aftercare** will return to the [Arts HUB](#):
 - 420 Courtney Way, Lafayette, CO 80026
 - **Pick-up Times:** 3:00 pm or 4:30 pm



Packing List

Students will carry child sized backpacks with their belongings as they walk to and from the outdoor learning area along the creek. Extra gear and water bottles can be placed in the wagons that carry our supplies.

Please label gear and clothing with your child's first and last name.

The following list is required to bring daily for all TNP students:

- Backpack:** Sized to fit your child and that can hold their personal belongings listed below.
- Warm layer:** Light weight fleece or sweater for cool weather
- Rain jacket:** Important to bring every day, because weather can change suddenly.
- Changes of Clothes:** Children get wet playing in the creek and can have accidents. Please make sure your child has 2 changes of clothes (pants/shorts, shirt, underwear, socks, and shoes in a small dry bag, plastic reusable bag, or a wet/dry bag.)
- Shoes:** Sturdy and comfortable for exploring on land.
- Water shoes:** Any type of shoe that can get wet and muddy such as boots, water sandals, an old pair of tennis shoes.
- Sun Hat**
- Sunglasses**
- Water Bottle:** Full and non-leaking. We will have water for refills as needed.
- Lunch:** Please pack a healthy lunch in a reusable container as we strive to be zero waste.
- Snack:** Please pack separately from lunch in reusable container.
- Stick Sunscreen:** Pre-applied and labeled with your child's first and last name for the teacher to keep at school and reapply throughout the day.
- Insect repellent:** Pre-applied if desired and labeled with your child's first and last name

After Care Items (if enrolled): Extra snack, separate bag with blanket and stuffy/lovie (if wanted) that will stay at the Arts Hub throughout the two-week session. We will provide mats and sheets, as well as books and other quiet activities during rest time.

Do NOT Bring: toys from home, electronics, or other valuable/important items.

Required Forms

Please login to your [CampInTouch](#) account to fill out any forms that may be required at least two (2) weeks prior to camp.

Required forms include:

- Medical History & Emergency Contact Form**
- Immunization Record or Exemption Form**
- General Health Appraisal Form**
- Parent Authorization Form**
- Release and Indemnity Waiver**
- Health Policy Acknowledgement**
- Preschool Media Release Form**
- Preschool Field Trip Form**
- Preschool Parent Handbook Acknowledgement**

REQUIRED MEDICATION FORMS*

*Medication Action Plans are ONLY required if camper will be bringing medication to camp

- Allergy Action Plan** (ONLY needs to be completed if camper will be bringing antihistamines or EpiPen/Auvi-Q)
- Asthma Action Plan** (ONLY needs to be completed if camper will be bringing inhaler)
- Medication Action Plan** (ONLY needs to be completed if camper will be bringing medication **other than** inhaler, EpiPen, or Auvi-Q such as Sudafed, Ritalin, or Tylenol)

Parent Communication:

Your Thorne Nature Preschool Teacher will use [Seesaw](#) for regular communication. This platform is free, easy to use, and allows the teachers to connect daily with announcements, updates, photos, and stories from the day. It also is the **best way to reach your child's teachers for questions, absences, and late arrivals**. There is a messaging system within the app, which can be used like text messaging. You can download the app [here](#). Prior to the start of the session, you will receive an email from the Preschool Coordinator or Preschool Manager with a link to join your child's class.

If you do not have a smart phone, please contact the [Preschool Manager](#) (lorene@thornenature.org) to discuss alternative options for communication.

Parent Handbook

[Download the TNP Parent and Safety Handbook](#) online for Policies & Procedures.

Typical Daily Schedule

Starting an adventure without parents can be scary. To ensure that children approach this transition with confidence and trust, we want to be sure that your child knows what the day will be like and options for when to say goodbye. Here is the schedule we follow most days. Please note that the schedule is subject to change based on the weather and needs of the group.

8:50-9:00	Arrival; Parents Help Their Child Use Bathroom and Apply Sunscreen (if not already applied)
9:00-9:15	Sign-in, Welcome and Greeting
9:15-9:30	Walk to Outdoor Learning Area
9:30-9:45	Opening Circle
9:45-10:15	Snack and Story on the Blanket
10:15-12:00	Child-led Nature Play and Exploration with Curriculum Offerings and Mentoring from Teachers
12:00-12:30	Lunch on the Blanket
12:30-1:00	Child-led Nature Play
1:00-1:30	Clean-up/Pack-up; Closing Circle; Walk to Pick-up Location
1:30pm	Parent Pick-up
	or Walk back to the Arts Hub (for those children in aftercare)
2-2:45 pm	Rest time at the Arts Hub
2:45-4:30	Free Play and Projects at the Arts Hub
3 pm and 4:30pm	Parent Pick-up

We will have plenty of adults available to help if children are feeling upset after the goodbye. Our experience is that once children become engaged with classmates and the routine activities of the day, they settle in quickly.

Options for When to Say Goodbye:

- After helping your child use the bathroom during the Welcoming and Greeting time.
- When the group begins their walk to the Outdoor Learning Area.

Thorne's Behavior Expectation Statement:

Our philosophy is to provide a joyful, safe space (physically, socially, and emotionally) to explore and learn about nature. We believe Thorne is a community where children can both connect to nature and develop life skills, like making good decisions and being responsible for actions. We practice Social Emotional Learning, inclusiveness, respect for others, and bully prevention with the knowledge that the well-being and safety of children is fundamental to enjoyment of the experience and nature connection.

Anti-Bullying Statement:

Bullying is considered unacceptable at Thorne Nature Experience. Bullying is defined by The American Camp Association as "when one or more people exclude, tease, taunt, gossip, hit, kick, or put down another person with the intent to hurt another." Bullying can occur "overtly and directly, with physical behaviors, such as fighting, hitting, or name calling, or covertly through emotional-social interactions, such as gossiping or leaving someone out on purpose." Thorne determines consequences for bullying on a case-by-case basis. Depending on the severity and consistency of the behavior, parents may be asked to immediately come and pick up their children for the day. Thorne reserves the right to suspend a child for one day up to permanent termination as they feel is necessary to maintain the integrity of the experience for all students and staff. In this case, no refund will be issued. See Thorne's Parent Handbook for the detailed behavior policy.

Cancellations, Transfers, and Refunds

Transfers: To make a transfer, please e-mail info@thornenature.org with your child's name, and the dates of the Summer Session you desire to transfer to and from.

- Prior to **May 1**, Summer Sessions can be transferred at **no cost**.
- After **May 1 and up to 14 days prior** to the Summer Session start date Summer Sessions can be transferred for a **\$50 fee**.
- **Within 14 days of the start** of a Summer Sessions, **no transfers will be made**. (Please refer to the cancellation policy).

There is no fee for Extended Care transfers.

All transfers are dependent on availability.

Cancellation: If you must cancel, please e-mail info@thornenature.org as soon as possible.

- A **\$50.00 nonrefundable deposit** is required for each Summer Session.
- Prior to **March 1**, **90%** refund of the total fee.
- **March 1- March 31**, **80%** refund of the total fee.
- **April 1- April 30**, **70%** refund of the total fee.
- After **April 30**, **no refunds** will be offered.
- Last-Minute Medical Transfer/Credit – In the event of illness or injury prior to the start of a Summer Sessions, please e-mail info@thornenature.org as soon as possible. Thorne will transfer the student to another available Summer Session or issue a credit good for up to 1 year for a future Summer Session. **A doctor's note stating the student's inability to participate will be required.** Requests for a medical cancellation will not be granted after a Summer Session has ended.

There is a \$15.00 fee for Extended Care cancellations.

Message from the Preschool Manager

Dear Nature Preschool Families,

I want to offer my gratitude to you for choosing Thorne Nature Preschool for your children. There is much to look forward to: the discovery of new places and natural wonders, mentorship from teachers, friendships with fellow students, resilience through overcoming challenges, and a peacefulness from finding one's special place. Our teachers and management work to structure the program to be exciting, interesting, and safe. However, each day will be different and enhanced by the wild things the groups are bound to encounter. My hope is that exciting stories of adventure and connection will make it home to you each night. I also hope your children will form cherished memories to carry with them into adulthood.

It is my own childhood memories of exploring nature that feed my love of the earth.

Yours in Nature,

*Lorene Wapotich
Thorne Preschool Manager 2023*

Connect

Follow Thorne Nature Experience on social media!



Questions?

Visit <http://thornenature.org/summer-camp/faq/> to view Frequently Asked Questions or contact info@thornenature.org or 303-499-3647.