



# Participant Safety & Behavior Policy

## Overview

Providing a safe learning environment is Muddy Sneakers' top priority.

Muddy Sneakers programs are designed to promote outdoor learning while equipping Participants with the awareness and skills needed to navigate natural environments safely. Participants, Group Leaders, and Chaperones all share responsibility for maintaining a safe, respectful, and productive experience.

## Definitions

- **Customer:** The school, group, organization, or entity that secures Muddy Sneakers programs and/or services.
- **Group Leader:** The Customer's designated representative and primary contact person.
- **Chaperone:** An adult, designated by the Customer, responsible for accompanying, supervising, and managing the behavior of participants.
- **Muddy Sneakers Educator:** A Muddy Sneakers staff member responsible for facilitating programs, delivering outdoor instruction, and guiding program activities.
- **Participant:** A person who takes part in Muddy Sneakers programs, events, and activities.

## Policy Details

- Muddy Sneakers Educators will introduce and review safety expectations and emergency procedures at the start of each program.
- Participants will be guided to think critically about their surroundings and make safe, informed decisions in outdoor settings.
- Safety instruction may include how to respond to situations such as:
  - Encountering wildlife (e.g., snakes)
  - Discovering hazards (e.g., active bees' nests)
  - Experiencing unexpected or changing weather conditions
- Programs take place in outdoor environments where Participants may encounter varying weather and environmental conditions.
- If Muddy Sneakers staff determine that conditions are unsafe, programs may be modified, postponed, or canceled.
- Participants must arrive prepared for outdoor conditions.
- Muddy Sneakers reserves the right to modify or end programming if safety or behavior expectations are not met.
- Participants must conduct themselves appropriately at all times.

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- Behavior that negatively impacts safety, learning, or the overall program experience may result in removal from current and/or future programs.

### Responsibilities

#### Group Leaders:

- Ensure all Participants arrive properly prepared with required clothing and supplies.
- Supervise Participants and reinforce safety and behavior expectations throughout the program.
- Support the instruction and, when necessary, implementation of emergency procedures.
- Communicate any significant barriers to participant preparedness with Muddy Sneakers in advance via the Pre-Visit Survey.
- Share effective behavior management strategies with Muddy Sneakers staff in advance via the Pre-Visit Survey.

#### Chaperones:

- Maintain active supervision of assigned Participants.
- Reinforce safety and behavior expectations and prevent unsafe or disruptive behavior.
- Assist in guiding Participants during emergency situations as directed.

#### Muddy Sneakers Educators:

- Provide clear safety instructions and model appropriate outdoor behavior.
- Lead participants through emergency procedures and situational decision-making.
- Monitor environmental conditions and adjust programming as needed to maintain safety.

#### Participants:

- Follow Muddy Sneakers Educators' directions the first time
- Stay with their assigned group
- Run only when permitted and appropriate
- Come prepared with required materials
- Show respect for the environment, Muddy Sneakers Educators, Group Leaders, Chaperones, peers, and themselves
- Remain engaged during lessons and activities
- Take care of supplies and equipment

### Important Notes/Requirements

#### Required Attire:

- Closed-toe shoes
- Weather-appropriate clothing

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Recommended Items:

- Sunscreen and/or bug spray (applied prior to arrival)

Required Supplies:

- Lunch and/or snacks
- Two (2) full bottles of water
- Pen/pencil and notebook
- Extra layers of clothing

Participants who are not appropriately prepared may have limited or no participation to ensure safety.

Outdoor conditions may change quickly; flexibility and preparedness are essential.