



ROCHESTER ECOLOGY PARTNERS

Growing Good: Summer Enrichment Program

Summer 2026 Information and Policies

Welcome to Growing Good with Rochester Ecology Partners! We are so excited to have you join us. We have an incredible summer lined up, from gardening and digging in the dirt to exploring parks and wild spaces around Rochester. Together, we will explore what food is, where it comes from, and how we can use food to make a better world in partnership with Foodlink at their newly built Edible Education Center at the Foodlink Community Farm. We will also find some fun ways to sneak in some ELA, Math, and Science to ensure you are prepared to return to school in the fall.

Check out this document for everything you need to know about Growing Good this summer, and please reach out to Rochester Ecology Partners (WildWonder@RocEcology.org or 585-851-1648) with any questions!

WHAT TO BRING AND WEAR:

- Please send your camper with a water bottle each day! We will have fresh water available for refills.
- Campers will need to wear closed-toed shoes and comfortable clothes that can get messy! They may also want to bring a hat for sun protection.
- Campers should arrive with sunscreen and insect repellent already applied. Staff will remind campers to reapply during the day, but will not apply these products for them. Please send labeled, non-aerosol products your child can apply independently.
- Rochester Ecology Partners is not responsible for the loss, destruction, or theft of any personal items that your child may bring to camp. We encourage your camper to keep valuables and other personal items at home.

TECHNOLOGY USE:

Camp is a screen-free experience! Please do not send cell phones, tablets, or other electronic devices with your child. We will contact you if needed during the day.

MEALS AND SNACKS:

Thanks to our partnership with Foodlink, all campers will receive a healthy breakfast, lunch, and snack each day. Meals are prepared with fresh, nutritious ingredients and served on-site at the Foodlink Community Farm.

If your child has any dietary restrictions, allergies, or food sensitivities, please indicate them during registration. You are welcome to pack food from home if necessary—please send items that do not require refrigeration or heating. We are a nut-free program to ensure the safety of all campers. Please do not send candy, soda, or energy drinks with your child.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP:

Growing Good will take place at the Foodlink Community Farm at 585 Lexington Avenue, Rochester, NY. Drop-off and pick-up each day will be at the Farm. We will alert all families via text message if the pick-up or drop-off location is adjusted due to inclement weather.

Please be prompt so that all camps can start at their scheduled times! All campers must be accompanied by an adult each morning and signed in with Rochester Ecology Partners staff.

Drop-off will occur between 9:00 am - 9:15 am each day, Monday through Friday.

Pick-up will occur between 2:45 pm - 3:00 pm each day, Monday through Friday.

Early Pick-ups

- In the event your camper needs to be picked up early, please notify a member of our team at drop-off, call or text us at (585)851-1647, or email our staff at WildWonder@RocEcology.org.
- In the event of an emergency, please reach us using the following numbers:
 - Rochester Ecology Partners Main Office: (585)851-1648
 - Taylor Jones, Nature-Based Education Program Manager: (716)807-5886

Late Pick-up Policy

- Guardians are responsible for communicating with Rochester Ecology Partners staff as soon as possible if they are running late for pick-up.
- Program dismissal is at 3:00 pm. If your child has not been picked up by 3:15 pm, we will call you and your emergency contacts.
- Picking up your child after 3:15 pm is considered a late pick-up. Two late pick-ups will result in a discussion or written note, and a third will result in the forfeiture of your child's seat in the program at the discretion of our staff.



FIELD STUDIES AND OFF-SITE ACTIVITIES:

As part of our summer learning experience, campers will explore local parks, green spaces, and natural areas around Rochester. These field studies help deepen connections with nature, food systems, and community spaces.

Transportation to off-site locations will be provided by van or bus, arranged by Rochester Ecology Partners and our trusted partners. All field trips are supervised by camp staff, and safety is our top priority.

Families will be notified in advance of any planned off-site excursions. Campers are expected to follow safety guidelines and stay with the group at all times during travel and activities.

EMERGENCY AND WEATHER POLICY:

The safety of all campers and staff is our top priority. Rochester Ecology Partners follows established procedures to respond to emergencies and changing weather conditions. In the event that Growing Good closes due to inclement weather or any other emergency, we will notify all families by text and/or phone call.

Weather-Related Plans

Camp runs rain or shine. In the event of severe weather (such as thunderstorms, extreme heat, or poor air quality), camp activities will be adjusted for safety. This may include moving to a covered or indoor shelter, modifying the schedule, or shortening the camp day if needed. Caregivers will be notified promptly of any major changes.

Emergency Procedures

In the event of a medical emergency, staff will provide first aid and contact 911 if needed. Caregivers will be called immediately after emergency services are contacted. For non-medical emergencies (such as a missing child or evacuation), our staff follows a detailed emergency plan and communicates clearly with families.

Please ensure your emergency contact information is up to date and that your child is dressed appropriately for outdoor weather each day.

ABSENCE POLICY:

We understand that kids may get sick, need to travel, or family matters come up—just let us know if your child will be out. If your child is absent without notice, we'll give you a call to check in.



SICK POLICY:

To help keep our camp community healthy and safe, we ask that families keep children home if they are feeling unwell. This includes, but is not limited to, symptoms such as:

- Fever (100.4°F or higher)
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Fatigue or muscle aches
- Unexplained rash
- Red or irritated eyes with discharge

If your child tests positive for a contagious illness such as COVID-19, flu, or strep throat, please notify us. Children should stay home for at least 24 hours after symptoms improve and they are fever-free without the use of medication.

We'll inform families if there is a confirmed case of a serious contagious illness in their child's group, while maintaining privacy.

Our staff will also follow these same health guidelines. We appreciate your partnership in keeping camp safe and fun for everyone.

HEALTH INFORMATION – ALLERGIES, MEDICATION, AND EXTRA SUPPORT:

Rochester Ecology Partners is committed to creating a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for all campers. If your child has a medical condition, severe allergies, dietary restrictions, or needs extra support, please provide this information during registration. A member of our team may reach out to discuss how we can best support your camper's experience.

Disabilities and Extra Support

We aim to make our camp experience accessible and welcoming for all children. If your child has a disability or requires additional support, please let us know during registration. Include any helpful details or strategies that can help your child thrive at camp.

Please note that we are not able to provide 1:1 aides. Campers participate in groups of approximately 10-15 campers, with a staff-to-camper ratio of around 1:8. If your child receives 1:1 support during the school year, please contact us before registering so we can talk through whether our camp structure is a good fit.

Allergies

If your child has allergies, please list them clearly during registration—including the allergen(s)



and reaction severity. Emergency medications (such as EpiPens, inhalers, or Benadryl) will be carried by camp staff during the day. Instructions on how to send medication with your child will be provided prior to camp.

Medications

We are unable to administer medication during the camp day (except for emergency allergy response, e.g. EpiPens). If your child requires medication while at camp, please plan to make alternative arrangements.

Campers are not permitted to carry or self-administer medication unless authorized in writing.

Please contact us with any questions or if your child has complex medical needs—we're here to help ensure a safe and positive experience for everyone.

Vaccinations

All campers are required to be up to date on the following vaccinations in accordance with New York State public health guidelines:

- DTaP/DTP/Tdap (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis)
- Hepatitis B
- MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
- IPV/OPV (Polio)
- Varicella (Chickenpox)
- Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)
- Pneumococcal conjugate (PCV)
- Meningococcal conjugate (MenACWY), starting at age 11–12

New York State does not allow religious exemptions from vaccination requirements. If your child has a documented medical exemption, please contact Rochester Ecology Partners directly to discuss your camper's eligibility.

CAMP EXPECTATIONS AND COMMUNITY GUIDELINES

To ensure a safe, respectful, and positive experience for all, campers are expected to follow behavior guidelines throughout their time at Growing Good. All participants must treat fellow campers, staff, and the environment with kindness, care, and respect. Behaviors that are not permitted include, but are not limited to: Name-calling, teasing, or bullying; Physical violence or threats; Inappropriate or foul language; Reckless or unsafe use of tools or equipment; Stealing or damaging property; Leaving the group without permission; Any actions that endanger themselves or others.



Behavior Management Process

When behavioral issues arise, our staff will address them promptly and fairly. The following steps may be taken to manage concerning behavior:

- Verbal Redirection – Staff will speak with the camper to explain the concern and encourage positive alternatives. Caregivers may be informed at pickup.
- Follow-up by Camp Leadership – If the behavior continues, the camper will be referred to camp leadership. Caregivers will be contacted to discuss the issue. A behavior agreement may be created and signed by the camper and caregiver to support a successful return to camp.
- Temporary Removal from Camp – If disruptive behavior continues or escalates, caregivers will be asked to pick up the camper. Depending on the situation, the camper may be suspended for the rest of the day or week.
- Dismissal from Camp – Serious or repeated behavior, such as physical aggression, running away from the group, or behavior that compromises the safety of others, may result in immediate dismissal from the program. No refunds will be issued in these cases.

Violence, leaving the group without permission, and behavior that endangers any person or the overall camp experience will be treated seriously. Camp leadership reserves the right to dismiss a camper from the program at any time if their behavior is considered harmful or unsafe.

PHOTO AND MEDIA RELEASE

We love capturing the joy, curiosity, and discovery that campers experience throughout the summer! Rochester Ecology Partners may take photos or videos during camp to use in reports, promotional materials, grant applications, and social media. During registration, caregivers will be asked to indicate whether they grant permission for their child to be photographed or filmed. If you choose not to give permission, we will make every effort to ensure your child is not included in any identifiable images or media.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

We understand things change. We request that you inform us of your cancellation 30 days or more before the start date of the camp so we can give the opportunity to another child.

We will provide refunds on the following schedule:

- 30+ days – full refund
- 15-30 days – half refund
- 14 days or less – no refund

(Special cases will be considered for adjusted refunds)

