

# Nature School At Montgomery Whitewater

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your interest in Nature School, presented by Max Credit Union, at Montgomery Whitewater! We are excited to offer a flexible, hands-on outdoor learning experience where children can step outside, explore the natural world, and discover how much there is to learn from the environment around them.

Nature School classes are lead by experienced instructors with a range of outdoor education and safety credentials, which may include certifications such as Wilderness First Aid, CPR, and Project Learning Tree-based environmental education.

Designed to spark curiosity, build confidence, Nature School helps foster a meaningful connection to the outdoors through age-appropriate activities, including nature journaling, creative projects, and collaborative games. Students will explore the plants, animals, and ecosystems of the River Region while developing observation, problem solving, and communication skills.

Lessons emphasize environmental stewardship, encouraging students to understand not only how ecosystems function, but also their role in caring for them.

We look forward to welcoming your child to Nature School and supporting their growth through exploration, discovery, and creativity. Please use this packet as a reference for all program information, and don't hesitate to reach out to our Education Team with any questions.

Best,

**Robin Simms**

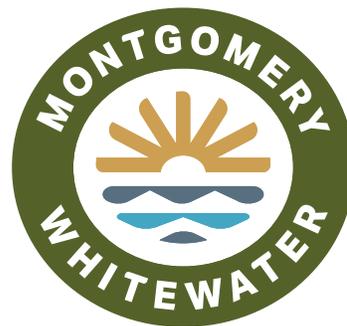
Education & Riverfront Development Director

[education@montgomerywhitewater.com](mailto:education@montgomerywhitewater.com)

334-746-6530 ext. 2006

Nature School is presented by





# Program Overview

## Nature School

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Nature School at Montgomery Whitewater is a hands-on outdoor learning program designed to spark curiosity, build confidence, and foster a meaningful connection to the natural world. Through guided exploration, nature journaling, creative projects, and collaborative games, students investigate the plants, animals, and ecosystems of the River Region while developing critical thinking skills, and environmental awareness.

Lessons emphasize observation, problem solving, communication, and environmental stewardship—helping students understand not only how ecosystems function, but also their role in caring for them. Small group sizes allow instructors to foster connection, teamwork, and individual growth in a supportive outdoor environment.

## Details

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- **Location:** Montgomery Whitewater Outdoor Classroom
- **Age Range:** Ages 2–10 (divided by age group). Children ages 2-4 must be accompanied by a caregiver.
- **Dates & Times:** Nature School is offered in three seasonal sessions, with all classes held from 9:00-11:00 am

**Spring:** Saturdays, March 7th – May 30th

**Summer:** Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, June 1st – July 31st  
Saturdays, August 1st – August 29th

**Autumn:** Saturdays, September 5th – November 28th

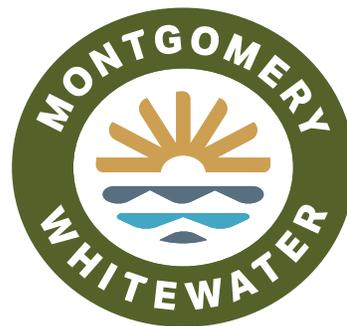
- **Registration:** Classes are sold individually, allowing families to register only for the dates they are able to attend within each season.

**Spring Session registration is now open**

**Summer Session registration opens in May**

**Autumn Session registration opens in July**

- **Price:** \$25 per class
- **Capacity:** 10 students per class
- **Curriculum:** Nature-based curriculum focused on exploration, observation, creativity, and environmental stewardship through hands-on outdoor learning.



# General Information

## Objectives & Learning Outcomes

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Nature School provides a safe, engaging, and educational outdoor experience for young learners. The program is designed to inspire curiosity, foster creativity, and encourage environmental awareness while supporting personal growth.

- **Exploration & Discovery:** Students investigate plants, animals, and ecosystems of the River Region through guided outdoor activities.
- **Critical Thinking:** Activities encourage observation, problem-solving, and communication skills.
- **Environmental Stewardship:** Students gain a deeper understanding of local ecosystems and their role in caring for the environment.
- **Creativity & Expression:** Nature journaling and projects allow students to express their discoveries in unique ways.
- **Confidence & Connection:** Small group settings foster confidence, teamwork, and a lasting appreciation for the outdoors.

## Drop-Off and Pickup

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- Drop-off takes place from 8:30-9:00 am at the Outdoor Classroom (see map attached).
- Parents/guardians must sign participant in and out each day.
- If someone other than a parent/guardian is picking up a student, they must be listed on the Camper Release Form and present a valid photo ID.
- Pick-up takes place between 11:00-11:30 am at the Outdoor Classroom.
- For late drop-off or early pickup, please contact Montgomery Whitewater in advance.
- A late fee of \$15 will be charged for every 15 minutes past 11:30am

**Pick-up & Drop-off Location:** See attached map at the end of this document.

## Packing List

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- Comfortable, weather appropriate clothing (lightweight, quick drying, and breathable materials are best)
- Close-toed shoes
- Sunscreen should be applied prior to arrival
- Hat or sunglasses
- Rain gear (if needed)
- Refillable water bottle
- Bug spray
- Pencil
- Small backpack or bag for personal items
- Any necessary medication (see Medication Policy)
- Nut free snack

## Lost & Found

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- We advise labeling all personal items with your child's first and last name.
- Personal undergarments may be thrown away daily if not claimed.
- Lost and Found items will be kept for the duration of the Nature School week. Afterwards they will be placed with Guest Services in the Outfitters store.

## Weather Policy

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We closely monitor weather conditions to ensure students' safety. Montgomery Whitewater will suspend all activities if inclement weather is detected within an 8-mile radius. Activities will resume 30 minutes after the last lightning strike or once inclement weather clears the area.

If weather conditions become unsafe, sessions may be moved under covered areas, rescheduled, or canceled, with communication sent promptly to parents.

### Extreme Weather

- At Montgomery Whitewater's Nature School, student safety is our top priority. In the event of extreme weather, programming will be adjusted to keep participants safe and comfortable.
- **Heat:** Hydration breaks will be enforced, and shaded/resting areas will be utilized as much as possible. Students may rotate through less strenuous activities and will be encouraged to take breaks whenever needed.
- **Cold:** Students will be reminded to dress appropriately for the weather. Activities may be adjusted to include more movement to keep participants warm, and warm-up breaks will be incorporated as needed.

## First Aid

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The safety of our students is a top priority. We have multiple first aid kits available on site.

- All Montgomery Whitewater Nature School leads will be certified in CPR and basic first aid.
- If your child has emergency medications (e.g. EpiPens, inhalers) please provide a waterproof carry bag. The child must always carry the medication on their person.
- If your child has severe allergies or a medical condition, please notify staff in advance so we can prepare accordingly.
- Parents will be notified of minor injuries during pickup at the end of the day.
- If a serious injury occurs staff will notify parents/guardians as soon as possible. If appropriate a parent/guardian may pick up the participant and transport them to the hospital.

## Medications

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- All medications must be documented and authorized prior to the start of the camp session. This includes both prescription, emergency, and over-the-counter medications.
- Only medications that are necessary and cannot be given outside of the hours of camp will be given during the program. All participant's must self-administer their medications under the supervision of a Montgomery Whitewater staff member.
- If your child has Emergency medications (E.g. EpiPens, inhalers) please provide a waterproof carry bag. The child must always carry the medication on their person and be prepared to self-administer if necessary.
- We encourage parents/guardians to administer OTC medications prior to their child arriving at Nature School.
- Parents/guardians must complete a Medication Administration Form, providing detailed information about each medication, including the participant's name, the name of the medication, dosage, times of administration, and any special instructions.
- The medication must be in a container dispensed by the pharmacy with the participant's name, dosage, name of medication, and the date the prescription was filled out.

### Parents/ guardians are responsible for

- Completing the Nature School form and returning it to program staff.
- Providing medication in a current and prescribed container.
- Transporting medication to the site and delivering it to a staff member.
- Understanding that Montgomery Whitewater will not store medications of any kind.

## Sick Policy

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To maintain a healthy Nature School environment, we ask that parents follow these guidelines:

- Please do not send your child to Nature School if they are sick.
- If child has a fever of 100.5 or higher, vomiting, diarrhea, or contagious illness they must remain home until they are symptom free for at least 24 hours.
- If a student develops symptoms during Nature School, they will be separated from the group and a parent/guardian will be contacted for pick up.
- If your child contracts a contagious illness, please notify Nature School staff so we can take appropriate actions.
- Refunds will not be allowed for illness-related absences.

## Behavior Policy

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To support a positive, respectful, and safe environment for all students, we ask participants to adhere to the following behavioral guidelines. Please discuss these expectations with your child before Nature School begins.

- Listen to and respect staff and fellow participants.
- Follow all safety instructions and guidelines for each activity.
- Use kind and respectful language (abusive and foul language will not be tolerated).
- No bullying, roughhousing, fighting, or otherwise disrespectful behavior.
- Disruptive behavior that would interfere with the ability of other participants to participate safely in the activities.
- Participants who repeatedly fail to follow program rules may be dismissed for the day and the program without refund.

## Registration & Enrollment

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- Classes are sold individually and all participants must be registered in advance.
- Same day registration is not permitted.
- Registration for each class closes at 1:00 pm the day before the scheduled class.

## Refund & Cancellation Policy

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- No refunds or rain checks will be issued for no-shows or cancellations made after 9:00 am the day before class.
- No exceptions will be made to this policy, including for illness, scheduling conflicts, or weather-related absences.
- Montgomery Whitewater reserves the right to cancel a class due to weather, safety concerns, or low enrollment. In the event of a program cancellation by Montgomery Whitewater, families will be notified and appropriate accommodations will be made.

## Waivers & Participation

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- Each student must have a completed waiver signed by a legal guardian prior to participation.
- Students without a completed waiver on file will not be permitted to participate.

## Age Requirements & Siblings

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- Students must meet the published age requirements for each class.
- Students between the ages of 2 and 4, must be accompanied by a caregiver.
- Siblings or other children may not join the class if they are not registered or do not meet the age criteria.
- Parents or guardians must ensure that unregistered children are kept out of all program activities at all times.

## Emergency Contact & Communication

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If you need to reach Nature School staff during the day for any reason, please use the following contact information:

**Robin Simms**

[education@montgomerywhitewater.com](mailto:education@montgomerywhitewater.com)

(334) 746-6530

**Guest Services Desk**

(334) 746-6530

Nature School is presented by



# Site Map



# Acknowledgement & Agreement ---

I acknowledge that I have read and understand all policies, procedures, and expectations outlined in the 2026 Nature School Information Packet. I agree to comply with all rules and requirements, and I understand that failure to do so may result in dismissal from the program without refund. I certify that I am the legal parent or guardian of the camper listed below.

**Camper Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Camp Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/ Guardian Name (Print):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/ Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Montgomery Whitewater Release of Liability

IN CONSIDERATION of being given the opportunity to participate in any Montgomery Whitewater Activities (as hereinafter defined) including scheduled, supervised and unsupervised programs, rental activities and races, and any activity taking place in buildings or on grounds managed by Montgomery Whitewater or owned by Montgomery County Community Cooperative District (such property referred to herein as "Montgomery Whitewater"), I, for myself, my minor child, my personal representatives, assigns, heirs, and next of kin:

1. ACKNOWLEDGE, agree and represent that (a) I am at least eighteen (18) years of age; (b) the Montgomery Whitewater Activities are voluntary; (c) I am solely responsible for the decision to participate in the Montgomery Whitewater Activities and have freely chosen to participate, despite the risk associated therewith; (d) I understand the nature of Montgomery Whitewater Activities, to include: Whitewater Rafting, both guided and self-led, Whitewater Kayaking, Whitewater Inflatable Kayaking, Flatwater Kayaking, Stand-Up Paddle Boards, Ropes Courses, Zip Lining, Rock Climbing, Mountain Biking, Running, Swimming, Ice Skating, and general participation in Outdoor Adventure Activities and Sports, both on water and land based involve inherent and other risks; and (e) that I (or my minor child), is qualified, in good health, and in proper physical condition to participate in such Montgomery Whitewater Activities.

2. AGREE AND WARRANT that I will examine and inspect each Montgomery Whitewater Activity in which I take part and that, if I observe any condition which I consider to be unacceptably hazardous or dangerous, I will notify the proper authority in charge of the Montgomery Whitewater Activity and will refuse to take part in the Montgomery Whitewater Activity until the condition has been corrected to my satisfaction.

3. FULLY UNDERSTAND that: (a) WHITEWATER RAFTING, BOTH GUIDED AND SELF-LED, WHITEWATER KAYAKING, WHITEWATER INFLATABLE KAYAKING, FLATWATER KAYAKING, STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDS, ROPES COURSES ZIP LINING, ROCK CLIMBING MOUNTAIN BIKING, RUNNING, SWIMMING, ICE SKATING, AND OUTDOOR ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES AND SPORTS ("Montgomery Whitewater Activities") INVOLVE RISKS AND DANGERS of serious bodily injury, including, but not limited to, the injuries described in Paragraph below, in addition to permanent disability, paralysis and death ("Risks"); (b) these Risks and dangers may be caused by my (or my minor child's) own actions, or inactions, the actions or inactions of others participating in the Montgomery Whitewater Activities, the condition in which the Montgomery Whitewater Activities takes place, or the negligence of the Releasees (as hereinafter defined); (c) there may be other risks and social and economic losses either not known to me or not readily foreseeable at this time; and I FULLY ACCEPT AND ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS AND ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOSSES, COSTS, AND DAMAGES OR DEATH incurred as a result of my or my minor child's participation in the Montgomery Whitewater Activities.

4. INHERENT RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE MONTGOMERY WHITEWATER Activities may include and/or expose participants to:

- Head trauma, facial injuries, fractures, dislocations, sprains, strains, and other soft tissue injuries
- Complications associated with exposure to weather and physical exertion,
- Impacts with other individuals or participants and/or their equipment,
- Loss of property,
- Hazards arising from other guests, manmade features, natural features, equipment failure or malfunction, and potential misjudgment by staff,
- Death,
- Drowning or other complications associated with immersion in water, High speeds and sudden stops, Trauma from being fully supported in a harness for an extended period of time,
- Falling and/or swimming in whitewater, becoming pinned or entrapped by items or obstacles in the water,
- Colliding with obstacles, watercraft, or other items in or on the water,
- Falling while entering or exiting the water

5. THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES ARE REQUIRED BY ALL PARTICIPANTS:

- All participants must wear proper safety equipment while participating in activities; proper personal flotation device while paddling on the WHITEWATER COURSE and the ALABAMA River, proper whitewater specific personal flotation device and helmet while utilizing the whitewater channels, proper harness while utilizing any land or high adventure aerial activities, and a helmet while mountain biking.
- Stay away from the edges of the whitewater channel and do not enter the channels unless a whitewater paddling participant wearing the proper equipment.
- Do not drink alcohol prior to engaging in any Montgomery Whitewater Activity on site.
- Observe all posted signage and warnings as well as obey all instructions from staff.
- Keep hands on paddle and inside the footprint of the craft while riding the conveyor belt. NEVER stand on the conveyor belt when moving, unless directed to by a staff member. Never touch any aspect of the conveyor belt system while it is in motion.

- Keep 50 feet away from the pump intake or outflow.
- Children must be supervised by a parent or guardian at all times.
- Inform your guide of any physical limitations prior to participating in any Montgomery Whitewater Activity.

6. HEREBY GRANT to MONTGOMERY WHITEWATER and their subcontractors (which includes employees, agents, successors, licensees and assigns), the irrevocable right and license to use my likeness as photographed and/or videotaped during participation in activities or use of the facility; and to use or authorize the use of such images or any portion thereof in any manner or media at any time in perpetuity, and to use my name and likeness therewith, including promotion in all media.

7. I HEREBY RELEASE, forever discharge, covenant not to sue Montgomery Whitewater, LLC, Southern Whitewater Development Group, LLC, their members, managers, employees and volunteers, as well as the Montgomery County Community Cooperative District, the city of Montgomery, their administrators, directors, agents, officers, volunteers and employees, other participating organizers and volunteers, any sponsors, advertisers, and if applicable, owners and lessors of premises, upon which the Montgomery Whitewater Activities take place, (collectively the "Releasees" and individually a "Releasee") from any and all claims or causes of action of any kind whatsoever, at common law, statutory or otherwise, for any liability whatsoever relating to or arising out of the Montgomery Whitewater Activities, use of Montgomery Whitewater, consumption of alcohol at Montgomery Whitewater, or access to Montgomery Whitewater, specifically including, without limitation, any claim for negligence, negligent acts or negligent rescue operations; release and discharge them from any and all claims whatsoever in connection with the use of my (or my minor child's) image; and further agree that if, despite this release, I, the minor, or anyone on the minor's behalf makes a claim against any of the above Releasees, I WILL INDEMNIFY, SAVE, AND HOLD HARMLESS each of the Releasees from any litigation expenses, attorney fees, loss liability, damage, or cost any may incur as the result of any such claim.

I have read this agreement, fully understand its terms, understand that I have given up substantial rights by signing it and have signed it freely and without any inducement or assurance of any nature and intend it to be a complete and unconditional release of all liability to the greatest extent allowed by law and agree that if any portion of this agreement is held to be invalid, the balance, notwithstanding, shall continue in full force and effect.

Check One:  **Adult Participant**     **Minor Participant** (17 years old or younger)

Participant Name \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Please Print)*

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Visit \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Sign One:

Adult Participant Signature \_\_\_\_\_

or

Minor Participant Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_