

Rainbow Tree Therapies, LLC

Therapeutic Nature Camps

Parent Handbook & Policies

Revised 2026

Welcome

Welcome to Rainbow Tree Therapies!

We are honored that your family has chosen to be part of our Therapeutic Nature Camps. Our camps are intentionally designed to provide children with meaningful opportunities to grow through nature, movement, play, and connection.

At Rainbow Tree Therapies, we believe nature is one of the greatest teachers. Every mud puddle, climbing log, winding trail, bird song, and gentle breeze provides opportunities for children to develop confidence, resilience, creativity, problem-solving, emotional regulation, and lifelong relationships with the natural world.

Unlike traditional camps, our therapeutic camps are intentionally small and led by pediatric occupational therapists and trained staff who understand child development, sensory processing, emotional regulation, executive functioning, and social participation. Every activity is thoughtfully planned to support each child's growth while preserving the joy and wonder of childhood.

Because our camps occur outdoors and involve authentic nature experiences including hiking, climbing, building, gardening, using real tools, interacting with animals, and exploring natural environments, there are inherent risks associated with participation. This handbook explains our policies and procedures so families understand how we work together to create a safe, supportive, and meaningful experience for every camper.

We encourage families to read this handbook carefully before camp begins. By signing the acknowledgement forms, you agree to the policies outlined throughout this handbook.

Thank you for trusting us with your child. We look forward to exploring, discovering, and growing together.

Lisa Haverly, MA, OTR/L
Founder & Pediatric Occupational Therapist
Rainbow Tree Therapies

Our Mission

Rainbow Tree Therapies exists to help children discover confidence, regulation, resilience, and connection through meaningful experiences in nature.

Our camps provide therapeutic opportunities that support children's physical, sensory, emotional, cognitive, and social development while fostering a lifelong appreciation for the natural world.

Our Philosophy

At Rainbow Tree Therapies, we believe children thrive when they have opportunities to:

- Move their bodies
- Explore freely
- Take healthy risks
- Solve real problems
- Connect with others
- Build confidence through success and failure
- Develop meaningful relationships with nature

Our therapeutic approach blends pediatric occupational therapy, sensory integration, nervous system regulation, child development, and nature-based learning into experiences that feel like play while supporting lifelong development.

Behavior Support, Emotional Regulation & Camper Success Plan

At Rainbow Tree Therapies, we believe that behavior is communication. Our approach is rooted in understanding each camper’s unique nervous system, sensory needs, developmental level, and individual experiences. Rather than viewing behavior as something to be controlled or punished, we seek to understand the underlying need and support children in developing regulation, flexibility, connection, and confidence.

Our camps are designed through the **Rooted in Rhythm™ framework**, recognizing that children thrive when they feel safe, connected, and supported. We prioritize relationship,

co-regulation, sensory-motor experiences, and meaningful engagement in nature to help campers build self-awareness and emotional resilience.

Our Regulation-First Approach

Children do well when they have the skills, supports, and environments needed to succeed. Camp staff will proactively support camper success through:

- Building trusting relationships and creating a sense of belonging
- Establishing predictable routines and clear expectations
- Providing visual supports, modeling, and developmentally appropriate choices
- Offering sensory and movement opportunities throughout the day
- Recognizing signs of stress, overwhelm, fatigue, or dysregulation early
- Supporting children in identifying and communicating their needs
- Adjusting expectations and activities when appropriate to support participation

Our goal is not compliance at all costs. Our goal is helping each child develop the ability to participate, connect, problem-solve, and return to regulation with support.

Co-Regulation & Emotional Support Strategies

Rainbow Tree Therapies staff are trained to use co-regulation strategies that support children's nervous systems before expecting independent self-regulation.

Examples of support may include:

- Calm, supportive adult presence
- Connecting before correcting
- Offering choices and opportunities for autonomy
- Providing movement, heavy work, or sensory-based regulation activities
- Using breathing, rhythm, grounding, or mindfulness strategies
- Helping children name emotions and body signals
- Creating opportunities for breaks and recovery
- Supporting repair after challenging moments

When a camper experiences difficulty, staff will respond with curiosity and compassion while maintaining appropriate boundaries and safety expectations.

Camper Success Plans

Each child comes to camp with unique strengths, interests, and support needs. Families are encouraged to share information during registration that helps our team understand their child, including:

- Communication preferences
- Sensory needs and regulation strategies that work well at home or school
- Triggers or situations that may be challenging
- Successful calming strategies
- Important information that helps their child feel safe and included
- Strengths and interests

When needed, Rainbow Tree Therapies may create an individualized **Camper Success Plan** with families to identify proactive supports and strategies that increase participation and confidence.

Supporting Safe Participation

We recognize that children may have moments of frustration, emotional overwhelm, impulsivity, or difficulty managing expectations. These moments are approached as opportunities for support and skill-building.

Staff may provide:

- A quieter space or temporary break from an activity
- Additional adult support
- Modified participation in an activity
- Alternative choices that meet the same therapeutic goal
- Time to regulate before rejoining the group

Campers are not expected to be perfect. They are expected to participate in the process of learning, practicing, and repairing with support.

When Parent Contact May Be Needed

Our priority is always to support a camper's success. However, there may be times when collaboration with parents or caregivers is needed. Families may be contacted when:

- A camper is experiencing repeated difficulty participating safely
- Current supports are not enough to meet the camper's needs
- A camper requires additional strategies or accommodations
- There is a pattern of behaviors impacting their ability to participate successfully
- Staff need additional information to better support the camper

Parent communication is intended to be collaborative and solution-focused. We view families as important partners in helping children succeed.

Safety Expectations & Potential Dismissal

Rainbow Tree Therapies is committed to creating a safe environment for all campers, including children who may experience regulation challenges. At times, however, a camper's needs may exceed what can safely be supported within the camp setting.

Immediate parent contact and possible dismissal may be necessary if a camper:

- Creates a significant safety risk to themselves or others
- Demonstrates repeated unsafe behaviors that cannot be successfully supported with available strategies
- Requires a level of individual support beyond what camp staffing can provide
- Is unable to participate in the camp environment despite reasonable therapeutic supports

Examples of safety concerns may include, but are not limited to:

- Leaving the supervised camp area or attempting to elope
- Repeated physical aggression toward others
- Unsafe use of tools, equipment, or natural materials after support and teaching
- Intentional harm to self or others
- Behavior that significantly prevents other campers from safely participating

Any decision regarding dismissal will be made thoughtfully, with communication between camp staff and caregivers whenever possible. Refund decisions will be considered on an individual basis depending on circumstances, timing, and resources already provided.

Our Commitment to Every Camper

At Rainbow Tree Therapies, every child deserves to experience belonging, connection, and success. We recognize that children communicate through their actions, emotions, and behaviors. Our role is to listen, understand, support, and provide the tools children need to grow.

Through connection, rhythm, regulation, and meaningful experiences in nature, we help campers discover their strengths and build confidence in who they are.

Assumption of Risk & Release of Liability

Participation in Rainbow Tree Therapies Therapeutic Nature Camps involves outdoor experiences and activities that carry inherent risks. Although every reasonable effort is made to maintain a safe environment and minimize foreseeable hazards, it is impossible to eliminate all risks associated with outdoor recreation, therapeutic activities, and nature-based experiences.

By enrolling your child, you acknowledge and voluntarily assume all inherent risks associated with participation.

These risks may include, but are not limited to:

- Slips, trips, and falls
- Uneven ground, rocks, roots, mud, and natural terrain
- Climbing over logs, hills, and natural obstacles
- Falling branches or natural debris
- Exposure to insects, mosquitoes, bees, wasps, ticks, spiders, and other wildlife
- Contact with poison ivy, poison oak, stinging plants, or other naturally occurring vegetation
- Weather-related conditions including rain, snow, ice, heat, cold, wind, lightning, smoke, and poor air quality
- Allergic reactions
- Animal interactions
- Injuries resulting from physical play
- Use of child-appropriate real tools including hammers, saws, vegetable peelers, pruning tools, carving tools, and other supervised woodworking equipment
- Campfire activities
- Water play or exploration near natural water features
- Transportation required during a medical emergency

Parents acknowledge that participation is voluntary and understand that no environment can be completely risk-free.

Rainbow Tree Therapies maintains high safety standards through therapist supervision, staff training, environmental assessments, established safety procedures, and appropriate staff-to-child ratios. However, participation in outdoor therapeutic programming includes risks that cannot be completely eliminated.

In consideration for my child's participation in Rainbow Tree Therapies Therapeutic Nature Camps, I voluntarily release, waive, discharge, and hold harmless Rainbow Tree Therapies, its owner, occupational therapists, employees, contractors, volunteers, and agents from any liability, claims, demands, damages, injuries, losses, costs, or expenses arising from participation in camp activities, except where prohibited by law or resulting from gross negligence or intentional misconduct.

I understand that this release applies to all camp activities conducted by Rainbow Tree Therapies unless revoked in writing where legally applicable.

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement

I acknowledge that I have carefully read and understand this Assumption of Risk and Release of Liability.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Next Section

Section 2: Emergency Medical Authorization & Health Information

This section will include:

- Emergency medical consent
- Non-consent option
- Emergency transportation
- Medication authorization
- Allergies
- EpiPen policy
- Parent contact procedures
- Emergency contact information

I also plan to modernize the language so it reflects current pediatric healthcare practices while remaining easy for families to understand.

WEATHER, ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS & CAMP CANCELLATION POLICY

Rainbow Tree Therapies Therapeutic Nature Camps are designed to help children build resilience, confidence, and regulation through meaningful experiences in nature. Outdoor experiences occur in a variety of weather conditions because learning to safely engage with nature across the seasons is an important part of our therapeutic model. Safety, however, always remains our highest priority.

Rainbow Tree Therapies reserves the right to modify, postpone, relocate, shorten, or cancel any camp session when environmental, weather, air quality, health, or safety conditions make operation unsafe. All decisions made by Rainbow Tree Therapies regarding camper safety are final.

Weather Monitoring

Camp staff continuously monitor weather conditions using reliable local weather services, radar, and environmental monitoring tools throughout the day. Decisions regarding cancellation, delayed start, early dismissal, or movement to indoor shelter are made solely by Rainbow Tree Therapies.

Whenever possible, families will be notified by email and/or text message as early as possible if camp must be cancelled before the start of the day.

Camp May Be Cancelled When

Camp may be cancelled or modified due to any of the following:

- Tornado Warning or Tornado Emergency
- Severe Thunderstorm Warning
- Lightning that creates unsafe outdoor conditions
- High winds capable of causing falling branches or trees
- Flash Flood Warning
- Hazardous travel conditions
- Extreme heat creating unsafe outdoor conditions
- Dangerous wind chill or extreme cold
- Poor air quality (see Air Quality Policy below)
- Any other environmental condition that Rainbow Tree Therapies determines creates an unsafe environment for campers or staff

Severe Weather During Camp

If severe weather develops while camp is in session:

- Campers will immediately move to the designated indoor shelter (the basement of the home on the property).
- Staff will maintain supervision and provide calming, therapeutic support while waiting for the weather threat to pass.
- If weather conditions do not improve or continued participation is unsafe, families may be contacted for early pick-up.

Lightning Policy

When thunder is heard or lightning is detected nearby:

- Outdoor activities stop immediately.
- Campers move indoors until at least **30 minutes after the last clap of thunder or observed lightning strike.**
- Outdoor activities resume only when conditions are considered safe.

Extreme Heat

During periods of elevated temperatures:

- Frequent water breaks are provided.
- Activities are moved to shaded areas whenever possible.
- Activity intensity is reduced.
- Cooling breaks are provided indoors as needed.
- Staff monitor campers closely for signs of heat exhaustion or heat-related illness.

Camp may be cancelled if temperatures or heat index create conditions that cannot be safely managed.

Winter Weather

Nature experiences continue throughout the winter when conditions are safe.

- Outdoor time may be shortened when temperatures fall below **10°F**.
- Indoor warming breaks will be provided as needed.
- If wind chill reaches dangerous levels or prolonged outdoor participation cannot be safely supported, camp activities will move indoors or camp may be cancelled.

Appropriate winter clothing is required for participation.

Air Quality Policy

Because our therapeutic camps are primarily outdoors, air quality is an important health and safety consideration.

Rainbow Tree Therapies monitors the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Air Quality Index (AQI)** before and throughout camp.

AQI	Air Quality	Camp Status
0–50	Good	Camp operates as scheduled.
51–100	Moderate	Camp operates as scheduled while monitoring children who may have asthma or respiratory conditions.
101–150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Outdoor activities may be shortened or modified. Families of children with respiratory conditions should determine if participation is appropriate.
151–200	Unhealthy	**Camp will be cancelled.**
201–300	Very Unhealthy	**Camp will be cancelled.**
301+	Hazardous	**Camp will be cancelled.**

Rainbow Tree Therapies reserves the right to cancel camp whenever air quality poses a potential health risk, even if AQI values are changing rapidly or localized smoke conditions differ from regional forecasts.

What to Wear

Children should arrive dressed appropriately for the day's weather.

Families should provide:

- Closed-toe shoes
- Extra layers
- Rain jacket
- Hat for sun protection
- Refillable water bottle
- Weather-appropriate clothing
- Any approved sunscreen or insect protection, if desired

Children who are not appropriately dressed for weather conditions may have limited participation in outdoor activities.

Weather-Related Refund Policy

Rainbow Tree Therapies invests in staffing, supplies, preparation, and reserved camp spaces well before camp begins.

Because weather and environmental conditions are beyond our control:

No refunds, credits, make-up days, or prorated tuition will be provided for camp cancellations, shortened camp days, delayed starts, or early dismissals due to weather, air quality, natural disasters, or other environmental safety concerns.

Whenever possible, Rainbow Tree Therapies may substitute indoor therapeutic activities or modify programming; however, alternative programming cannot be guaranteed.

We appreciate your understanding as these policies allow us to prioritize the health and safety of all campers while maintaining high-quality therapeutic programming.

Emergency Medical Authorization & Health Information

The health and safety of every camper is our highest priority. While Rainbow Tree Therapies takes every reasonable precaution to provide a safe therapeutic environment, accidents and illnesses can occur unexpectedly. This authorization allows staff to respond promptly in the event of an emergency.

Parents or legal guardians are responsible for providing complete and accurate health information before camp begins and for notifying Rainbow Tree Therapies of any changes prior to the first day of camp.

Emergency Medical Authorization

In the event of an accident, injury, illness, allergic reaction, or other medical emergency during camp, Rainbow Tree Therapies staff will make every reasonable effort to contact the parent(s) or emergency contact(s) listed on the child's registration.

If a parent or emergency contact cannot be reached in a timely manner, I authorize Rainbow Tree Therapies and its staff to:

- Obtain emergency medical evaluation and treatment for my child.
- Contact Emergency Medical Services (911) when deemed necessary.
- Arrange emergency transportation by ambulance or other emergency personnel.
- Release relevant health information to emergency responders and healthcare providers as necessary to facilitate treatment.
- Authorize emergency medical care until a parent or legal guardian can be reached.

This authorization includes, but is not limited to:

- Emergency medical evaluation
- Diagnostic testing
- X-rays
- Medication administered by emergency medical personnel
- Hospitalization
- Surgery or procedures deemed medically necessary by the attending physician
- Any life-saving treatment considered appropriate by licensed medical professionals

I understand that I am financially responsible for any medical expenses incurred.

Parent/Guardian Consent

☐ **I GIVE CONSENT** for emergency medical treatment as described above.

☐ **I DO NOT GIVE CONSENT** for emergency medical treatment.

If you do **not** consent, please clearly describe your wishes below. Please note that in a life-threatening emergency, emergency responders may provide care as permitted by applicable law.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Health Information

Parents agree to provide complete and accurate information regarding their child's:

- Medical diagnoses
- Allergies
- Medications
- Seizure disorders
- Asthma or respiratory conditions
- Diabetes
- Food allergies
- Bee or insect sting allergies
- Behavioral or emotional concerns that may impact participation
- Other medical conditions staff should know about

Failure to disclose significant medical information may impact our ability to safely support your child.

Allergies

Rainbow Tree Therapies strives to create a safe environment for all campers. However, because camp takes place outdoors and families bring their own food, we cannot guarantee an allergen-free environment.

Parents are responsible for informing staff of all allergies prior to camp.

These may include:

- Food allergies
- Medication allergies
- Environmental allergies
- Bee or insect sting allergies
- Plant allergies

- Animal allergies

Families are encouraged to discuss any significant allergy concerns with Rainbow Tree Therapies before camp begins.

Severe Allergic Reactions (Anaphylaxis)

If your child has a history of anaphylaxis or requires emergency medication such as an EpiPen®, parents must:

- Provide current emergency medication on the first day of camp.
- Ensure medication is clearly labeled with the child's name.
- Verify medication has not expired.
- Provide written instructions regarding administration.

Camp staff will call 911 immediately whenever an EpiPen® is administered.

Asthma

Children who require an inhaler should bring one each day unless otherwise discussed.

Parents are responsible for ensuring inhalers:

- Are clearly labeled
- Are not expired
- Remain available during camp

Medications

Rainbow Tree Therapies does **not** routinely administer scheduled medications during camp.

If medication administration during camp is medically necessary, parents must make arrangements with Rainbow Tree Therapies prior to the first day of camp.

Prescription medications must:

- Be in their original pharmacy-labeled container.
- Include the child's name.
- Include dosage instructions.
- Be accompanied by written parent authorization.

Rainbow Tree Therapies reserves the right to decline medication administration if safe procedures cannot be reasonably accommodated.

Minor Injuries

Nature play occasionally results in minor injuries such as:

- Scrapes
- Small cuts
- Bruises
- Splinters
- Minor insect bites
- Minor bumps

Staff will provide basic first aid, comfort measures, and notify parents of injuries as appropriate.

An incident report will be completed whenever warranted.

Tick & Insect Policy

Because our camps occur in natural environments, exposure to ticks and insects is possible.

Rainbow Tree Therapies staff:

- Encourage children to remain on designated trails when appropriate.
- Monitor campers for visible ticks on exposed skin and clothing.
- May remove a visible tick using recommended first-aid procedures when parent permission has been granted.
- Notify parents if a tick is found or removed.
- Recommend families perform a thorough tick check after camp each day.

Staff do **not** perform full-body tick checks or inspect areas covered by clothing.

Parents are encouraged to use insect repellent before arriving at camp if desired.

Sunscreen

Parents are encouraged to apply sunscreen before arriving at camp.

If sunscreen will need to be reapplied during camp:

- Families must provide labeled sunscreen.
- Written parent permission is required.

Children may self-apply sunscreen with staff supervision when developmentally appropriate.

Parent Contact During Emergencies

Parents or emergency contacts may be contacted for:

- Illness
- Injury
- Significant behavioral concerns
- Allergic reactions
- Weather-related emergencies
- Early camp dismissal
- Any situation requiring parent involvement

Parents agree to remain reasonably available by phone while their child is attending camp.

If parents cannot be reached, emergency contacts will be called.

Emergency Contact Information

Parent/Guardian #1

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian #2

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Phone: _____

Emergency Contact (Other Than Parent)

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement

I certify that the medical information I have provided is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge. I agree to notify Rainbow Tree Therapies of any changes prior to my child's participation in camp.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Communication, Photography & Electronic Media Consent

At Rainbow Tree Therapies, we believe that strong communication with families creates the best experience for children. Throughout camp, we strive to keep families informed about important information, celebrate children's accomplishments, and communicate promptly regarding health or safety concerns.

This section explains how Rainbow Tree Therapies communicates with families and requests permission for the use of photographs and videos.

Parent Communication

Rainbow Tree Therapies communicates with families regarding:

- Camp reminders
- Schedule changes
- Weather-related updates
- Emergency notifications
- Health or safety concerns
- Behavioral updates when appropriate
- Upcoming programs and events
- Resources that support your child's development

Communication may occur through:

- Email

- Telephone
- Text messaging
- Secure electronic registration software
- Parent meetings or phone consultations

Parents are responsible for ensuring that all contact information remains current throughout the camp season.

Electronic Communication

I authorize Rainbow Tree Therapies to communicate with me electronically regarding my child's participation in camp.

I understand that electronic communication may include:

- Registration information
- Camp reminders
- Newsletters
- Camp schedules
- Weather notifications
- Program updates
- Billing information
- Educational resources
- Information regarding my child's participation

While Rainbow Tree Therapies takes reasonable precautions to protect confidential information, I understand that standard email and text messaging are not completely secure forms of communication.

Sensitive medical or personal information may be discussed by telephone or through secure electronic systems whenever appropriate.

Social Media & Photography

Throughout camp, staff may take photographs or short videos to document activities, celebrate camper experiences, provide families with memories of camp, and promote Rainbow Tree Therapies.

Photographs may include:

- Nature exploration
- Crafts and projects
- Gardening
- Hiking

- Therapeutic activities
- Animal interactions
- Group games
- Camp celebrations

Whenever possible, photographs will portray children respectfully, positively, and in a manner consistent with the mission and values of Rainbow Tree Therapies.

Children's last names, addresses, medical information, or other identifying personal information will never be published alongside photographs.

Photo & Video Authorization

With my permission, photographs or videos of my child may be used for:

- Rainbow Tree Therapies website
- Social media platforms
- Educational presentations
- Professional conferences
- Marketing materials
- Printed brochures
- Camp displays
- Parent newsletters
- Community outreach
- Training and educational purposes

Rainbow Tree Therapies does not sell photographs or use images for commercial purposes unrelated to the organization.

Parent Choice

Please select one:

☐ **YES**

I grant permission for Rainbow Tree Therapies to photograph and/or video my child and to use those images for the purposes described above.

OR

☐ **NO**

I do not grant permission for Rainbow Tree Therapies to photograph or video my child for promotional or educational purposes.

I understand staff may still use photographs internally for documentation or identification purposes when necessary for camp operations.

Parent Photography During Camp

Parents and family members are welcome to take photographs of **their own child** during designated events.

To help protect the privacy of all campers:

- Please avoid photographing or recording other children without permission from their parent or guardian.
- Images containing other campers should not be shared publicly without appropriate consent.

Confidentiality

Rainbow Tree Therapies respects every family's privacy.

Information regarding campers, including medical information, behavioral concerns, evaluations, or therapy recommendations, is considered confidential and will only be shared:

- With authorized staff who need the information to safely care for your child.
- When required by law.
- During a medical emergency.
- With your written authorization.

Mandatory Reporting

Rainbow Tree Therapies staff are mandated reporters under Wisconsin law.

If staff have reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or neglect, they are legally required to report those concerns to the appropriate authorities.

Parents will be informed when appropriate and permitted by law.

Electronic Device Policy

Rainbow Tree Therapeutic Nature Camps are designed to encourage children to connect with nature, one another, and their own creativity.

Campers are asked to leave the following items at home unless previously approved by staff:

- Cell phones
- Smart watches capable of texting or calling
- Tablets
- Electronic games
- Personal music devices

If a child brings an electronic device:

- It should remain turned off and stored in their backpack unless staff determine it is needed for medical or safety reasons.
- Rainbow Tree Therapies is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal electronics.

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement

I have read and understand the Communication, Photography, Electronic Media, and Confidentiality policies of Rainbow Tree Therapies.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Animal-Assisted Therapy & Nature Interaction Policy

Rainbow Tree Therapies believes that meaningful interactions with animals and the natural world provide powerful opportunities for growth, confidence, emotional regulation, empathy, responsibility, and sensory development. Depending on the camp program, children may have opportunities to interact with therapy animals or farm animals, or observe wildlife in their natural habitats.

While these experiences are carefully planned and supervised, animals and natural environments are inherently unpredictable. This policy outlines expectations and acknowledges the risks associated with participation.

Our Philosophy

Animals often provide children with unique opportunities to:

- Build confidence
- Develop empathy and compassion
- Practice emotional regulation
- Improve communication skills
- Increase body awareness
- Develop responsibility and respect
- Experience calming sensory input
- Foster meaningful connections with the natural world

Rainbow Tree Therapies believes these experiences can be both therapeutic and transformative when conducted safely and respectfully.

Animal Experiences

Depending on the specific camp, children may interact with or observe:

- Chickens
- Sheep
- Donkey
- Rabbits
- Other domesticated or other farm therapy animals
- Native wildlife observed in nature

Not every camp includes animal interactions.

Participation may vary depending on the child's comfort level, the animals present, and current safety considerations.

Inherent Risks

Parents understand that interactions with animals involve inherent risks, including but not limited to:

- Bites
- Scratches
- Kicks
- Stepping on feet
- Allergic reactions
- Unexpected animal movements
- Falling while walking near animals
- Contact with dirt, hay, feathers, fur, insects, or animal waste

Although therapy animals are carefully selected and supervised, no animal behavior can be completely predicted.

Donkey Activities

Some Rainbow Tree camps include opportunities to interact with our mini donkey.

Activities may include:

- Grooming
- Leading
- Feeding
- Learning donkey care

Parents acknowledge that larger animals capable of sudden, unpredictable movements including:

- Walking unexpectedly
- Startling
- Kicking
- Biting
- Running
- Reacting to unfamiliar sounds, wildlife, weather, or other animals

Participation around our donkey carries inherent risks despite careful supervision.

Camper Expectations Around Animals

Children are expected to:

- Listen carefully to staff instructions.
- Approach animals only when invited.
- Walk calmly around animals.
- Use gentle hands.
- Speak in quiet voices near animals.
- Respect animals' space.
- Never chase, tease, or intentionally frighten animals.
- Wash hands after animal interactions.

Children who repeatedly engage in unsafe behavior around animals may lose the privilege of participating in animal activities.

Respect for Wildlife

An important part of Rainbow Tree Therapies is developing respect for all living things.

Campers are encouraged to observe wildlife while remembering that wild animals are not pets.

Children will learn to:

- Observe without disturbing habitats.
- Leave nests, eggs, insects, and wildlife where they are found.
- Appreciate animals from a safe distance.
- Respect ecosystems.
- Leave nature better than they found it.

Nature Stewardship

Rainbow Tree Therapies teaches children to become caretakers of the natural world.

Campers are expected to:

- Stay on designated trails when requested.
- Respect plants and trees.
- Avoid damaging habitats.
- Leave flowers and living plants whenever possible.
- Properly dispose of trash.
- Practice Leave No Trace principles appropriate for their age.

Hygiene & Biosecurity

To reduce the spread of germs between animals and people:

- Campers will wash or sanitize hands after interacting with animals.
- Staff supervise proper hygiene.
- Food and drinks should not be consumed inside animal areas unless directed.
- Children with open wounds may have limited participation in certain animal activities until wounds are appropriately covered.

Allergies

Parents are responsible for informing Rainbow Tree Therapies of:

- Animal allergies
- Hay allergies
- Environmental allergies
- Asthma

- Bee sting allergies
- Other medical conditions that may affect participation

Reasonable accommodations will be made whenever possible; however, complete avoidance of environmental allergens cannot be guaranteed in an outdoor setting.

Animal Welfare

Rainbow Tree Therapies is committed to humane treatment of all animals.

Campers are expected to treat every animal with kindness and respect.

Staff reserve the right to immediately end any animal interaction if either the child or animal appears uncomfortable, overstimulated, or unsafe.

The welfare of both children and animals will always take priority.

Assumption of Risk

I understand that participation in activities involving horses, therapy animals, farm animals, and wildlife includes inherent risks that cannot be entirely eliminated.

I voluntarily assume these risks on behalf of my child and understand that Rainbow Tree Therapies takes reasonable precautions to provide safe and supervised experiences.

Release of Liability

In consideration for my child's participation in animal-assisted activities at Rainbow Tree Therapies, I voluntarily release, waive, and hold harmless Rainbow Tree Therapies, its owner, therapists, employees, volunteers, animal handlers, property owners, and affiliated organizations from any claims arising from injuries, damages, or losses resulting from participation in these activities, except where prohibited by law or resulting from gross negligence or intentional misconduct.

Parent/Guardian Consent

Please select one:

☐ **YES**

I give permission for my child to participate in supervised animal-assisted activities offered as part of Rainbow Tree Therapies Therapeutic Nature Camps.

OR

☐ **NO**

I do not give permission for my child to participate in animal-assisted activities.

I understand that choosing not to participate may limit my child's involvement in certain camp experiences.

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement

I have carefully read and understand the Animal-Assisted Therapy & Nature Interaction Policy. I understand the inherent risks associated with animal interactions and voluntarily consent to my child's participation as indicated above.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Camper Safety, Supervision, Boundaries & Camper Fit

The safety and well-being of every child is the highest priority at Rainbow Tree Therapies. Our Therapeutic Nature Camps are designed to provide children with meaningful opportunities to explore, take healthy risks, build confidence, and develop independence within a safe, supportive, and therapeutic environment.

Children grow through challenge. While we intentionally provide opportunities for age-appropriate risk-taking, all activities are carefully supervised by trained staff using established safety procedures.

Therapeutic Camp Philosophy

Rainbow Tree Therapies believes that children develop confidence, resilience, problem-solving skills, and self-awareness through authentic experiences in nature.

Our staff strive to create an environment where children are encouraged to:

- Try new experiences
- Build independence
- Develop self-confidence
- Learn from mistakes
- Solve problems
- Work cooperatively with others
- Respect themselves, others, and the environment

While we work to minimize hazards, we do not eliminate all opportunities for healthy challenge, as appropriate risk-taking is an important part of childhood development.

Staff Supervision

Rainbow Tree Therapies maintains a **maximum ratio of three campers to one adult (3:1)** whenever possible.

This low ratio allows staff to provide individualized support while encouraging independence and social participation.

Camp staff include licensed pediatric occupational therapists and trained camp staff who have experience supporting children with:

- Sensory processing differences

- Emotional regulation
- Executive functioning
- Social participation
- Motor development
- Neurodiversity
- Child development

Staff continuously supervise campers during all camp activities.

Camper Readiness

Rainbow Tree Therapeutic Nature Camps are best suited for children who can safely participate within a small group setting.

Children should generally be able to:

- Remain with the group.
- Follow simple safety directions with support.
- Participate within a 3:1 supervision ratio.
- Transition between activities with reasonable support.
- Demonstrate curiosity and willingness to engage in outdoor experiences.
- Participate without requiring continuous one-to-one supervision.

Camp is intentionally therapeutic and staff expect children to need support with regulation, flexibility, and social interactions. However, children whose safety needs exceed what can reasonably be supported within a 3:1 ratio may not be an appropriate fit.

Families are encouraged to openly discuss their child's strengths, challenges, sensory needs, triggers, communication style, and regulation strategies before camp begins so staff can provide the best possible support.

Safety Boundaries

At the beginning of each camp session, staff review camp expectations and physical boundaries with all campers.

Campers are expected to:

- Stay with their assigned group.
- Remain within designated camp boundaries.
- Ask permission before leaving an activity area.
- Respond to staff directions regarding safety.
- Notify staff if they need assistance.

Visual and verbal reminders are provided throughout the day to help children remain successful.

Wandering & Elopement

Because camp occurs outdoors, remaining within camp boundaries is essential for everyone's safety.

If a child begins moving beyond established boundaries, staff will:

1. Immediately redirect the child using calm verbal cues.
2. Provide co-regulation strategies when appropriate.
3. Increase supervision.
4. Modify the activity or environment if needed.
5. Contact parents if concerns persist.

If a child repeatedly attempts to leave the group or demonstrates unsafe wandering that cannot be safely managed within our staffing ratio, parents may be asked to pick up their child early.

Future participation will be discussed collaboratively with the family.

Healthy Risk-Taking

Rainbow Tree Therapies intentionally teaches children how to safely manage risk rather than avoid it.

Campers may participate in activities such as:

- Hiking
- Nature exploration
- Climbing over logs
- Walking on uneven terrain
- Building forts
- Gardening
- Digging
- Woodworking
- Hammering
- Nature crafting
- Campfire activities
- Obstacle courses
- Balance challenges

Staff provide instruction, supervision, and environmental modifications appropriate to each child's developmental level.

Participation in every activity is voluntary.

Real Tool Safety

Many Rainbow Tree camps incorporate authentic tools because real tools promote confidence, responsibility, executive functioning, fine motor development, and problem-solving.

Depending on the age and camp theme, children may use:

- Hammers
- Hand drills
- Vegetable peelers
- Hand pruners
- Small saws
- Sandpaper
- Wood carving tools
- Other age-appropriate woodworking tools

Children receive direct instruction before using any tool.

Safety expectations include:

- Using tools only with staff permission.
- Remaining seated or in designated work areas when required.
- Maintaining a safe distance from others.
- Carrying tools safely.
- Returning tools immediately after use.

Staff reserve the right to discontinue a child's participation in tool activities if unsafe behavior occurs.

Water Safety

Some camps may include supervised exploration near shallow streams, puddles, or other natural water features.

Children are never permitted to enter water unless specifically directed and supervised by staff.

No swimming activities are conducted unless specifically advertised as part of a program.

Tree Climbing

When appropriate, children may have opportunities to climb low tree branches under direct supervision.

Staff teach campers to:

- Assess stability before climbing.
- Maintain three points of contact.
- Climb only to heights approved by staff.
- Descend safely.

Tree climbing privileges may be restricted based on individual safety considerations.

Bathroom Procedures

Depending on the camp location, bathroom facilities may include indoor restrooms or portable facilities.

Children should be as independent as possible with toileting.

Staff may:

- Escort children to restroom areas.
- Wait outside the restroom when appropriate.
- Provide verbal reminders.
- Assist younger children as needed while respecting privacy and maintaining professional boundaries.

Parents should notify staff of any toileting concerns before camp begins.

Clothing & Footwear

Children should arrive each day wearing clothing appropriate for outdoor play.

Required items include:

- Closed-toe shoes
- Clothing that can get dirty
- Extra layers
- Rain gear when appropriate
- Sun hat (optional but encouraged)

Flip-flops, sandals without heel straps, or shoes that easily slip off are not appropriate for camp activities.

Personal Belongings

Please label all belongings.

Rainbow Tree Therapies is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal items.

Children are encouraged to leave valuable items at home.

Drop-Off & Pick-Up

Parents or authorized adults must accompany campers during drop-off and pick-up unless other arrangements have been made in advance.

Children will only be released to:

- A parent or legal guardian
- Individuals authorized in writing by the parent

Identification may be requested if staff are unfamiliar with the individual picking up a child.

Late Pick-Up

Parents should notify staff as soon as possible if they anticipate arriving late.

Repeated late pick-ups may result in additional fees or reconsideration of camp participation if they significantly impact staff scheduling.

Missing Camper Emergency Procedure

Although every precaution is taken to prevent a child from becoming separated from the group, Rainbow Tree Therapies maintains emergency procedures should this occur.

If a camper cannot be immediately located:

1. Staff secure the remaining campers.
2. Staff initiate an immediate search of the camp property.
3. The Camp Director is notified.
4. Parents are contacted.
5. Emergency services will be contacted if the child cannot be located promptly.

Parent Partnership

Successful camp experiences depend upon collaboration between families and staff.

Parents agree to:

- Share relevant medical and behavioral information.
- Inform staff of changes that may impact participation.
- Respond promptly to phone calls during camp.
- Work collaboratively with staff to support their child's success.

Open communication allows us to create the safest and most meaningful experience possible for every camper.

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement

I have read and understand the Camper Safety, Supervision, Boundaries, and Camper Fit policies. I understand that participation in outdoor therapeutic programming involves inherent risks and agree to partner with Rainbow Tree Therapies to support my child's safe participation.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____