

Riverbend Birthday Party FAQ's:

1) What if the weather is bad?

In the event of rain, we will still make every effort to complete as much of the program outside as possible. If conditions allow and the children are properly dressed, the naturalist will be prepared to take them on the trail as usual. Otherwise, we will move the party inside and adapt the activities or we can do a portion of the programming at our covered Outdoor Classroom.

Due to our location, in the woods and at the bottom of a valley, Riverbend can be highly affected by winter weather. Your safety and the safety of your guests is our priority therefore, when scheduling a winter birthday party, we will also schedule an alternative "snow date" in case Riverbend is deemed unsafe. We will work with you in the week approaching the party to determine if the party should be postponed or continue as planned. Unfortunately, as the weather forecast is not always accurate and conditions can change quickly, Riverbend reserves the right to postpone the party if we deem that conditions are not safe.

2). Can we bring more than 20 children?

No, 20 is our maximum, including the birthday child. Exceeding this number jeopardizes the quality of your child's experience and the ability of the naturalist to effectively engage and manage the party. Siblings and siblings of guests over age two count towards the 20 children limit.

3). Are parents allowed to stay?

We enjoy having a few adults attend the party to help out and supervise, however a large amount detracts from the overall birthday experience. We suggest that parents of guests drop children off and visit nearby stores or enjoy Riverbend's picturesque 30 acre nature preserve while their child is attending the birthday party. We request that adults be respectful of staff and not interfere or detract from the program.

Please Note: If you are concerned about the number of adults that will attend, you may want to suggest on invitations that only one parent accompany each child.

4). Does Riverbend supply invitations?

Yes, Riverbend invitations are included with the Bonus package. We also have a template of our invitations available on our website for reference. If you choose to send an evite *be sure to remind guests that we will be going outdoors and to dress appropriately for the weather.* We recommend hats, gloves, scarves, snow boots and jackets during the colder months and rain jackets, rain boots, hats and sunscreen during the warmer months.

5). What is the general schedule for the party?

The party begins with 15-20 minutes of live animals in the barn and then moves on to the main activities and hike for 40-45 minutes. If you are doing the basic package, that will conclude our programming and you will have the next hour for food and any activities that you have planned. The bonus package includes an additional 30 minute bonus activity of your choice (generally a craft or game time); leaving you the last 30 minutes of the party for food or any activities that you have planned.

6). What live animals can we expect to see?

We have many exciting animals at Riverbend including Box Turtles, Red-eared Sliders, a Three-lined Mud

Turtle, a Ball Python, a Corn Snake, Rats, Leopard Geckos, a Tarantula, and a Blue-tongued Skink. During the animal time 2-4 animals will be brought out for the party guests to see and touch. The birthday child will have a chance prior to the party starting to choose which animals they would like to see.

7). What cool artifacts might we touch?

Depending on the theme of the birthday party, you could see anything from mammal furs, like a skunk or raccoon, to antlers, snake skin and turtle shells, to feathers and shark jaws!

8). How early can we arrive the day of the party?

You may start setting up 30 minutes prior to your party. You may also have 30 minutes after the party to pack up.

9). Can we decorate?

Yes. Our bonus package includes party decorations but the basic package does not include decorations. If you would like to bring your own you are more than welcome to. As an environmental education center, we ask that you consider only bringing non-helium balloons. Helium balloons can escape and be harmful to our local wildlife. We also request that if you are bringing your own tablecloths, please consider bringing a reusable, not a disposable, one.

10). Can we bring a piñata?

Yes! We have a great spot to hang the piñata in the barn. Please notify staff the week before the party to be sure we have the proper equipment needed ready to go the day of the party.

11). Do you supply food and beverages?

No we do not. However we have two water fountains conveniently located in the barn for your use. You have access to our kitchen including an oven, microwave, refrigerator, and freezer for any food you bring and the naturalist will be happy to assist you with anything you need. You can bring whatever food you like or have food delivered. Many families order pizza which can be delivered right to the barn. We recommend calling in advance to schedule your order especially if you have an early birthday party or a Sunday party.

Tony & Joe's
201 Fayette Street,
Conshohocken, PA 19428
(610) 825-1160

Bryn Mawr Pizza
658 West Lancaster Avenue,
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010
610) 525-4421

A few environmentally-friendly party tips: Bring big bottles of juice and use the reusable cups that we provide as party favors. When shopping for disposable items, look for brands made from recycled or biodegradable products. To reduce food waste, cut the cake and pizza to fit the size of the piece to match the appetite of the child. Many of the local pizza places will double cut the pizza slices.

12). Can we bring alcohol?

No, for insurance purposes, Riverbend has a strict NO alcohol policy during birthday parties.

13). I need to cancel – what is your cancellation policy?

We require a \$100 deposit to reserve the date. Cancellations must be received in writing (fax or e-mail) one month prior to the scheduled program date in order to receive a 50% refund of the deposit. We are unable to make refunds for cancellations made less than a month in advance.

Riverbend Birthday Party Policy:

- 1). The host family must accompany and supervise children during the entire educator led program. You are responsible for the discipline of all children, which may include removing individuals from activities if they are not behaving properly. Running and/or yelling are not appropriate behaviors in the barn.
- 2). If parents are accompanying their child to the party they are there to supervise and manage their child(ren). Parents should be respectful of staff and not interfere or detract from the program. These expectations should be set up prior to the start of the birthday party as to not take away from the birthday child's experience.
- 3). A penalty of \$20 per child will be charged beyond the MAXIMUM 20. Please be aware that siblings over the age of 2 years will be factored into the 20 count. Please keep this in mind when planning your guest list.
- 4). If cancellations are received in writing (via fax or email) at least one month prior to the scheduled program date you will receive a 50% refund of the deposit. We are unable to refund deposits for cancellations made less than a month prior to the program. Same point as before
- 5). Riverbend reserves the right to postpone the party if the conditions at Riverbend are deemed unsafe for visitors. When scheduling a winter party, we will reserve a snow date in case of inclement weather. If the party must be postponed, the party will be moved to the arranged snow date.
- 6). Alcohol is not permitted at the birthday party.
- 7). Host families must sign and return this agreement to finalize their birthday party reservation. Please scan and email it to hkunz@riverbendeec.org or fax to 610.527.1161 Attn: Hadley Kunz.

I have read and agree to abide by Riverbend's Birthday Party Policy.

Date

Signature