



Birthday Parties at Riverbend

Riverbend Birthday Party Policies and FAQs

What happens during the party?

The educators will have a schedule in mind but will go over it with you when you arrive in case things need to change.

Typically the program goes as follows:

- Guests arrive and educators do an icebreaker and introduction
- Selected Craft
- Games
- Scavenger hunt to Outdoor Exploration
- Outdoor Exploration
- Return to barn to meet an animal of the birthday child's choosing
- Last half an hour is reserved for food

What time may we arrive to set up?

- The host family may arrive 30 minutes prior to the start of the party for set up and 30 minutes after the party ends is permitted for cleanup. Please plan to bring all party supplies home with you.
- During set up and clean up, it is possible to drive your car up to the barn but there is no space to turn around. Our educators can assist with backing up the vehicle. We also have wagons to help carry supplies to and from the parking lot.

May we decorate?

- Since we are an environmental education center, we encourage low waste and compostable/recyclable decorations and tableware (please refer to [Green Paper Products](#) for examples).
- We provide tables covered with Kraft paper and crayons for children to draw. In addition, we have a large, gender neutral "Happy Birthday" banner that we will have set up for the party.

Please note: In order to protect our native wildlife, balloons are not permitted at Riverbend.



Do you supply food or beverages?

Our parties are DIY and therefore we do not supply food or beverages. For insurance purposes, Riverbend has a strict no alcohol policy during birthday parties. You will have access to kitchenette facilities including refrigerator space, oven, and small freezer space. Many families choose to 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 or Sunday party. For ease, we recommend ordering the Pizza to arrive at the beginning of the party. However, if you want it ordered right on time, we typically leave the last half hour for food.

We also are encouraging the limiting of food waste. Please take this into consideration when ordering/bringing food to the party. Any leftovers should be packed out and taken away. The party attendant will direct you to the proper bins for limited trash and recycling.

We recommend the following pizza places:

Tony and Joe's

201 Fayette St Conshohocken, PA 19428

610-825-1160

Zesto Pizza

908 Conestoga Road Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

610-527-8500

How many children may we bring?

Riverbend birthday party packages accommodate a maximum of 17 children total – not to exceed a total person count of 40. If you are interested in a party for more than 17 children, please contact us to discuss barn rentals and customized events.

Are parents permitted to stay?

Parents may stay for the party if they feel their child would benefit from their presence. We request that all adults are respectful of staff and not interfere or detract from the program.

What should be included in the party invitation?

- Please remind your guests to dress children for outdoor weather conditions.



- It's helpful to give directions about how guests can find the party: they can park in our lot and walk up the hill to the big red barn.

What if the weather is bad?

- In the event of bad weather, we make every effort to complete as much of the program outdoors as possible. If your party includes a facilitator, conditions allow, and children are properly dressed, the facilitator will take them outside. Otherwise, we will relocate party activities indoors in the barn or covered outdoor classroom.
- In the event of snow, Riverbend will work with you to identify a snow date for your event.
- We reserve the right to postpone your party if the conditions are deemed unsafe.
- Riverbend will make decisions around weather-related changes no sooner than 24 hours before the scheduled program.

What if I need to cancel my party?

Payment is due in full at the time of your party registration. If cancellations are received in writing at least one month prior to the date of the party, you will receive a 50% refund. We are unable to refund payments for cancellations made less than one month prior to the party date. However, staff will work with you to try to reschedule your party if possible.

What is the Riverbend preserve like?

The Riverbend preserve is located on a hill along a curve in the Schuylkill River. It features a variety of habitats, including a stream, forested areas, a meadow and a few small ponds. The trail to the barn and surrounding area is paved but other trails have rocks and wood chips. The paths to the pond and forest area are up a hill. (Please see our [Trail Map](#) and [Accessibility Guide](#) for more information.)