

COOL LAKE ARROWHEAD SERVICE SCHOOL

WHEN **CLASS** IS IN SESSION
THE FOREST GROWS COOL KIDS



C.L.A.S.S. Parent Handbook 2026

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ipalgic

Aiming to be, together.

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Session Offerings

Spring Session: March 5 - April 16, OFF March 31, April 2

Water Cycle, Water Purification, Watershed
Seeds, Growth, Uses of Plants

Summer Session: June 4 - July 16, OFF June 30, July 2

Food Chain, Food Web, People and Animals
Farm to Aisle, Retail, Fire

Fall Session: September 3 - October 8, OFF September 29, October 1

Geography, Geology, History
Culture, Community, Storytelling

Winter Half-Session: December 1 - 17

Weather, Stars, Birds

All session themes are subject to change

Mission

We help kids build confidence, resilience, emotional intelligence, and real-world skills through outdoor play, exploration, and community.

About Us

CLASS was created from a deep belief that children learn best when they feel safe, connected, capable, and autonomous. Our goal is to provide meaningful outdoor experiences where students can grow in confidence, curiosity, emotional awareness, and real world skills.

Our lead educator and founder, Daniel Cook, brings a background in environmental science, education, youth development, and outdoor leadership, along with years of experience working with children in classrooms and nature programs, and on ropes courses or the archery range coaching excellence. His work is rooted in a deep respect for children, nature, and the belief that learning should feel joyful, engaging, and meaningful. We believe in excellent kids.

Why CLASS?

Most families choose forest school because they want their children to spend more time outdoors, developing confidence and building real world skills. At CLASS, we go even further. We believe that learning doesn't just happen in nature, it happens in relationships. At CLASS, the forest is our classroom and the human experience is a part of the curriculum. Children are supported in navigating big emotions, social challenges, and moments of conflict with care, respect, and guidance, without shame or punishment.

In other words, students don't just learn about the world, but they learn how to be in it. Through outdoor exploration, play, and hands-on experiences in our local community, like public lands, local businesses, fire stations, and water treatment facilities, students develop a deep sense of belonging, capability, and responsibility.

At CLASS, children build:

- Emotional regulation and resilience
- Confidence and independence
- Social skills and empathy
- Curiosity and love of learning
- A strong sense of safety, belonging, and purpose

Approach & Pedagogy

At CLASS, learning happens through hands-on exploration, play, meaningful work, and strong relationships. Our role as educators is to carefully observe, guide, and support each child's natural curiosity, helping them develop confidence, independence, emotional awareness, and real-world skills.

This might look like a student finding animal tracks and being guided to investigate where they lead, or finding a flower that sparks questions and curiosity. When students climb boulders, construct with logs, or play in the mud kitchen, they are building strength, coordination, judgment, and self-trust. CLASS develops these essential foundations for resilience and independence.

Mixed-age play and group activities naturally teach cooperation, communication, empathy, and conflict resolution. Teachers actively support students in navigating social challenges and big emotions with care, helping the child build emotional regulation, problem-solving, and healthy relationship skills.

At CLASS, students see, touch, move, and feel their learning. By engaging their whole bodies, emotions, and senses children develop deeper understanding, stronger confidence, and a lasting love of learning.

Daily Routines

Circle up - Welcome

Free Play

- Intentional stations available

Snack & Story time (students share or teacher reads)

Group Curriculum Activity

Lunch

Free Play

Circle Up - Goodbye

Students will be individually welcomed to CLASS in the opening circle. We will prepare students to engage with singing and a game before telling them the day's theme. Students will

be identified for various CLASS roles like preparing or cleaning up lunch at this time. Free play will have structured and unstructured spaces for students to follow their own interests. Snack will be available during this time to accommodate student's variety in hunger needs. A group snack time will also give space for students and teachers to share stories, both made up and reflective of their experience.

Each day students will participate in an activity collectively. The activity may require group cooperation or could be an independent art project. These activities will focus on the daily curriculum and create something tangible for students to experience learning in meaningful ways. Activities include crafting, shelter building, map making, guided tours, scavenger hunts, cooking, dancing, telling stories, trash clean-up, nature maintenance, and more.

Lunch will be provided by parents for their children. At least once a session we will prepare a potluck style meal. Students will have opportunities to cook during CLASS with adult supervision.

Required Gear

Waterproof Boots (wool socks encouraged)

Long pants (long underwear encouraged depending on weather)

Jacket (multiple layers depending on weather)

Mittens or gloves

Hat or sunglasses

Backpack with chest clip (children size)

- Change of clothes: socks, pants, shirt, underwear (extra gloves or mittens encouraged)

Water bottle (spill proof)

If you need any assistance acquiring gear please reach out to admin@ipalgic.com.

Forest School Activities

We will be outside, playing in various weather and physical environments. Reasonable risky play helps children assess and manage risk independently - this builds confidence. Students will partake in the following activities at CLASS with adult supervision and guidance.

- Water play in shallows*, with buckets, hoses, etc. (no swimming)
- Going on hikes in the forest
- Climbing on boulders
- Walking on logs
- Crawling in brush
- Using the bathroom outside or in a port-a-potty
- Building with natural materials
- Touching plants and insects*
- Cooking with fire*
- Using tools* like saws, drills, screwdrivers, rope, scissors, glue, ladders

*additional adult guidance and supervision will be provided for some activities to ensure safety and well-being.

Parent Participation

We **welcome** parents to participate with CLASS in a primary role to observe their child's capability and growth. A "Parent Lounge" will be made available at each site for parents to disengage from CLASS and remain present.

We **require** parents of students who need help performing bathroom duties to attend CLASS with their children. The "Parent Lounge" will be available for privacy.

CLASS is a wonderful place for parents to reinforce or practice new ways of interacting with their children. If parents would like to participate they must:

- Attend group orientation
- Sign communication and culture agreement
- Be willing to take time away from their child when asked
- Notify teachers at least 24 hours prior

The Parent Lounge will serve as a space for parents to take a break, focus on work or other needs, socialize, or have private conversations. Parents can choose to spend all or none of their time in the Parent Lounge. Teachers may direct parents to the Parent Lounge to facilitate CLASS objectives for student experiences.

Enrollment Requirements

Parents:

- Orientation
 - If you cannot attend the group orientation on 2/24/2026, then you will need to schedule a make-up session for an additional cost.
 - Signatures: C.L.A.S.S. waiver, field trip waivers, expectations agreement

Students:

- must be fully potty-trained (no pull ups, diapers) before session starts to attend without a parent/ guardian.
- should have a desire to play and explore outdoors and independently, in various weather conditions.

Vendor PO or payment submitted before 3/5/2026

Tuition Assistance Application submitted before 2/27/2026

Tuition

| Annual Registration Fee | \$100 | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| | Session Price | Founders Price* | Toddler Price |
| Spring | \$450 | \$400 | \$275 |
| Summer | \$450 | \$425 | \$300 |
| Fall | \$450 | \$425 | \$300 |
| Winter | \$250 | \$225 | \$160 |

Families will receive a 10% discount for each additional child, not including toddler or founders prices.

*Founders will not pay registration fees in 2026 and will always receive a 10%(+) discount for tuition and registration fees, in perpetuity.

Prices are subject to change annually.

Refunds or Credits

We cannot give refunds or credits for inclement weather closings, holiday breaks, family vacations, absences, or illnesses. If you feel you have a unique situation, please speak with us.

Withdrawal Policy

If you need to withdraw your child from a session, please provide **14 days** notice to the start of the session for a full refund. This allows time to fill the spot, adjust resources, and communicate field trip expectations. Families will receive a partial or full refund if withdrawal under extraordinary circumstances is required, after a session has begun, on a case by case basis.

Additional Expenses

Parents should anticipate occasional small expenses throughout the year including field trips, parking, and special projects. Confidential financial assistance is available for any of these expenses.

Tuition Assistance

Financial Assistance is available for all classes on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications for assistance should be submitted with registration paperwork and can be found in Appendix D. All tuition assistance is confidential.

Illness Policy

Parents/Guardians will keep their child home if the child has had a fever (temperature of 100.4 degrees or greater), vomiting, or diarrhea within 24 hours of class. A no-touch thermometer will be available at CLASS if needed. We request children also stay home if they are experiencing notable fatigue, persistent coughing, or excessive nasal drainage.

Snack

Snack will be made available for students by CLASS. Fruits, veggies, breads and cheese will be the main options. Meats and nuts may be available.

Water will be available and students need their own water containers. Juice or tea may be available to students.

Parents may provide snacks for CLASS.

Please notify us of any allergies, preference, or restrictions during orientation. Parents/guardians are responsible to clearly state any food restrictions for their children, in writing, during or before orientation.

Birthdays

We love celebrating these exciting milestones in CLASS! We will celebrate birthdays at snack time by singing the birthday song and taking a photo of the birthday child (students can make a special birthday decoration like a crown or staff). You are welcome to send in a special snack on that day if you like, and you must notify CLASS staff at least **48 hours** in advance. If you'd like to be present for your child's birthday celebration, please coordinate with their teachers at least **48 hours** in advance.

Parent Teachers

CLASS utilizes qualified parents in greater roles as Parent Teachers. These Parent Teachers help facilitate student experiences and safety. Parent Teachers submit background checks via LiveScan processing and are required to attend CLASS oriented training. Parent Teachers are not employees of CLASS and are self employed contractors.

Extreme Weather Policies

In CLASS, we spend the majority, if not all, of our class time outdoors. Students should come prepared for learning outdoors in the sun, rain, and snow. In the case of extreme weather, we may shift to an indoor facility, however this will rarely be an option. The safety and well-being of our students is our first priority and we make our decisions based on our students' needs. We may remain open in inclement weather even if the Rim of the World School District is closed and we may close if the Rim of the World School District is open. We expect that families will use their own judgment in deciding whether or not to transport their children to class. We reserve the right to cancel class if CLASS or local authorities deem conditions unsafe. CLASS may shift locations to accommodate weather conditions and will seek to inform families **48 hours** in advance to avoid cancellations.

Forest School Experiences

Water Treatment Facility
Heaps Peak Arboretum
Strawberry Peak Fire Lookout
Lake Gregory
Lake Arrowhead
Alpine Zoo, Big Bear
Ipalgic Archery

#69? Fire Station
Twin Peaks Sheriff Station
Heaps Peak Disposal Site (Dump)
Mountains Community Hospital
NASA Observatory

Important CLASS Dates

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Spring Orientation | 2/24 |
| First Day of spring CLASS | 3/2 |
| Spring Break | 3/30 - 4/3 |
| Spring Potluck Luncheon | 4/19 |
| Last Day of spring CLASS | 4/16 |
| Summer Orientation - | 5/28 |
| First Day of summer CLASS - | 6/2 |
| Summer Break - | 6/29 - 7/3 |
| Summer Potluck Luncheon - | 7/9 |
| Last Day of Summer CLASS - | 7/16 |
| Fall Orientation - | 8/27 |
| First Day of Fall CLASS - | 9/1 |
| Fall Break - | 9/28 - 10/2 |
| Fall Potluck Luncheon - | 10/8 |
| Last Day of Fall CLASS - | 10/15 |
| Winter Orientation - | 11/19 |
| First Day of Winter CLASS - | 12/1 |
| Last Day of Winter CLASS - | 12/17 |

Appendix A: Resources

Growing Up Wild: Exploring Nature With Young Children

- <https://www.fishwildlife.org/projectwild/growing-wild>

Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood

- <https://www.plt.org/curriculum/environmental-education-for-early-childhood/>

BEETLES project

- YouTube

Hunt Gather Parent - Michaeleen Doucleff

Speaking Peace - Dr. Marshall Rosenberg

Continuum Concept - Jean Liedloff

CA Next Generation Science Standards