

Parent & Student Handbook

Bigfoot Food Forest Homeschool

A nature-based home education instructional program operated under Bigfoot Nature Fellowship 508(c)(1)(A) incorporated nonprofit
Trinity, Florida
Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Welcome

Welcome to Bigfoot Food Forest Homeschool, a nature-based homeschool enrichment community for families seeking meaningful, hands-on learning in a real-world outdoor setting. The program is designed to support curiosity, practical life skills, social growth, and parent-directed education through gardening, permaculture, outdoor exploration, and collaborative activities on five acres of Florida land.

This handbook is intended to help parents, guardians, educators, and students understand the program's expectations, safety practices, participation guidelines, and general policies. Families are encouraged to review this handbook carefully before participating.

Program Overview

Bigfoot Food Forest Homeschool is an in-person home education instructional program operating under Bigfoot Nature Fellowship. Eligible home education instructional programs are expected to provide publicly reviewable descriptions of their courses or activities, a published tuition and fee schedule, and a physical operating location.

This program is intended to enrich parent-directed home education and is not a private school, public school, charter school, or virtual school. The parent or guardian remains responsible for the child's primary education decisions and overall homeschooling direction.

Program activities may include:

- Gardening and food forest learning
- Nature-based enrichment
- Permaculture projects
- Outdoor exploration

- Social group learning
- Hands-on practical life skills
- Creative and seasonal activities connected to the land

Schedule

Bigfoot Food Forest Homeschool meets **every Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** in an in-person outdoor learning environment on five acres in Florida.

Program schedules, special activity days, seasonal breaks, or closures may be adjusted as needed due to weather, safety concerns, land conditions, holidays, or program planning needs.

Enrollment & Tuition

Tuition

The standard tuition is:

- **\$100 per month per child, FREE for first-gathering**

Any additional fees, special event costs, optional materials fees, or changes to pricing will be communicated in writing before they apply. Eligible home education instructional programs are expected to have a published tuition and fee schedule available to families.

Payment Schedule

- Monthly tuition is due by the 1st day of each month unless otherwise stated in writing.
- Payment may be collected through Stripe or another approved payment method.
- Late or incomplete payment may affect a child's continued enrollment or attendance.

Payment Through Step Up

Families using Florida scholarship funds should follow current Step Up For Students procedures through the marketplace or provider system, if applicable. Step Up materials for home education instructional programs describe these programs as part of the parent's home education or PEP-directed instruction and require that they provide enriching courses or activities in a physical location.

Parents are responsible for confirming current eligibility, approved use of funds, and correct submission procedures through their own Step Up account.

Refund, Credit & Cancellation Policy

Unless otherwise stated in writing:

- Monthly tuition is non-refundable once the month has begun.
- Missed program days do not automatically qualify for a refund.
- Voluntary absences, scheduling conflicts, travel, or late arrival do not guarantee make-up days or credits.
- If the program cancels a day due to weather, safety, or operational reasons, a make-up day, credit, or other adjustment may be offered at the program's discretion.
- Any exception for medical emergency, family emergency, or relocation may be considered individually.

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

Parents and guardians are responsible for:

- Providing accurate enrollment and contact information
- Informing the program of allergies, medical needs, behavioral concerns, or special accommodations
- Ensuring their child arrives prepared for outdoor participation
- Reviewing program communications and updates
- Completing required forms, waivers, and acknowledgments
- Following sign-in, sign-out, check-in, or supervision procedures

Because this is a homeschool enrichment program rather than custodial full-time schooling, families remain responsible for their children before drop-off, after pick-up, and at any time parent presence is required.

Student Expectations

Students are expected to:

- Treat other children and adults with kindness and respect
- Listen to instructors, volunteers, and activity leaders
- Stay within designated areas unless given permission otherwise

- Participate safely and cooperatively
- Respect plants, tools, learning materials, and the property
- Use respectful language at all times
- Ask for help before using unfamiliar tools or materials

Code of Conduct

The program aims to create a safe, welcoming, and respectful environment for all participating families. The following conduct is not acceptable:

- Bullying, harassment, intimidation, or repeated disruption
- Unsafe physical behavior, rough play, or leaving designated areas without permission
- Destruction of property or misuse of tools and materials
- Refusal to follow reasonable safety instructions
- Language or behavior that creates an unsafe or hostile environment

If behavior becomes unsafe or repeatedly disruptive, the program may require parent intervention, remove a student from an activity, suspend attendance, or end participation when necessary to protect the safety and well-being of the group.

Safety Guidelines

Because activities take place outdoors on land, safety expectations are especially important. Families and students are expected to follow all posted and verbal safety instructions.

General safety rules include:

- Closed-toe shoes are strongly recommended for all outdoor activities.
- Bring weather-appropriate clothing, sun protection, and water.
- Do not use tools, gardening equipment, or other materials without permission or supervision.
- Stay aware of natural terrain, roots, insects, plants, mud, and uneven ground.
- No roughhousing, climbing where not permitted, or entering restricted areas.
- Respect fire, water, wildlife, and any active work areas.
- Report injuries, hazards, or concerns immediately.

Land-Based Activity Notice

Participation on the land may involve inherent risks associated with outdoor environments, including but not limited to heat, insects, uneven ground, sharp natural materials, tools, garden-related activities, weather changes, and wildlife. Families participate voluntarily and are expected to exercise good judgment and personal responsibility.

All parents, guardians, and participating children may be required to sign a separate waiver, liability release, or land-access agreement before attending or each time they visit the property, depending on current program procedures.

Illness Policy

To help protect the health of participating families:

- Please stay home if your child has a fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or other contagious symptoms.
- Do not attend if your child is too unwell to safely participate in outdoor activities.
- Parents or guardians may be contacted for immediate pickup if a child becomes ill or cannot safely remain at the program.
- Good hygiene, including handwashing when appropriate, is encouraged.

Weather Policy

Because this is a Florida outdoor program, weather conditions may affect the schedule. Sessions may be modified, shortened, moved within the property, postponed, or canceled due to lightning, heavy rain, unsafe temperatures, high winds, flooding, or other safety concerns.

Families should check for updates before attending whenever questionable weather is expected.

Medical & Allergy Information

Each participating child should have current medical and emergency information on file, including:

- Parent or guardian contact information
- Emergency contact information
- Known allergies
- Relevant medical conditions
- Medications or emergency response needs

- Any activity restrictions the program should know about

The program does not guarantee medical treatment on site, but may contact emergency services and/or a child's emergency contacts when reasonably necessary.

Photography & Media

From time to time, photos or videos may be taken during program activities for documentation, community updates, educational use, website content, or promotional materials. A separate media consent or photography release may be used for permission and preference tracking.

If a parent or guardian does not want their child included in external media use, that preference should be communicated clearly in writing.

Communication

Families should expect most communication to happen through the program's designated contact method, website, email, text group, or other announced communication channel. Parents and guardians are responsible for reviewing updates regarding schedule changes, weather, supplies, safety notices, and event details.

What to Bring

Families may wish to bring:

- Water bottle
- Closed-toe shoes
- Sun hat or sun-safe clothing
- Weather-appropriate layers
- Bug spray or sunscreen, if desired
- Any approved personal medical needs
- Optional lunch or snacks, if instructed by the program

Exact supply expectations may vary based on the day's planned activities.

What Not to Bring

Unless specifically approved:

- Weapons of any kind

- Illegal substances
- Items that create unnecessary risk or distraction
- Personal tools or equipment not approved by the program
- Valuables that may be lost or damaged outdoors

Participation Acknowledgment

By enrolling and participating in Bigfoot Food Forest Homeschool, families acknowledge that they have reviewed this handbook and agree to follow program expectations, safety guidelines, participation requirements, and communication procedures.

This handbook is intended to support clear expectations and healthy community functioning. It does not replace any separate waiver, release, medical form, media release, or other enrollment document that may also be required.

Contact

Bigfoot Food Forest Homeschool

Operated under **Bigfoot Nature Fellowship**

Program format: In-person homeschool enrichment on five acres in Florida

Schedule: Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Bigfootnaturefellowship@gmail.com

Bigfootflorida.com/bigfootfoodforest/homeschool

Families should use the program's official website, enrollment form, or designated administrator contact for current registration and communication details.