

Cincinnati Nature Center Children's Group Policy: Rowe Woods Trails and the Marge & Charles Schott Nature PlayScape

What is a "Children's Group"? A children's group is defined by CNC as 12 or more people, with the majority of them between the ages of 3 and 18 years old plus adult chaperones, visiting the property together, regardless of whether they arrive in individual cars (as with scout groups) or in a bus (as with daycare centers). If the intent is to experience the property and its features as a group of 12 or more, then CNC's group policy applies.

Pre-Registration: A group of 12 or more must call to request permission to enter CNC property. By controlling the number of people on the property at any given time, visitors will have a quality experience while minimizing impact to the land. If too many people are already scheduled on the day you wish to visit, you will be asked to select another date or time. To pre-register, call Registrar Amy Johnson at (513) 831-1711 ext. 129 or email ajohnson@cincynature.org. Groups who have not pre-registered will not be permitted on the property. All groups must pay daily admission. This can be paid either in advance or at the gate. Daily admission is: \$8 adults, \$3 children (ages 4 – 12), \$6 seniors/active military, and CNC members are free.

Trails: CNC offers two options for groups wishing to hike the trails: Self-Led or Staff-Led. Groups wishing to enter the Nature PlayScape before or after their hike must pre-register for this option as well. Groups are permitted to eat lunch on the covered side Rowe Visitor Center porch or at designated picnic areas. The Whittaker Library/Bistro, located inside the Rowe Visitor Center, is not available for group use. Light snacks and drinks are available on-site. Groups are required to take all trash upon leaving; recycling and composting are available.

1. Self-Led Hikes: The privilege of leading your own groups on CNC trails requires that each leader attend a free orientation before the group arrives. This one hour orientation provides essential information about CNC's trail rules, helpful techniques for how to manage and focus groups in the outdoors, and more. You will receive useful hand-outs and resources to enhance your visit. Please ensure that you have one adult per group of 11 children and that each of these adults attends this orientation prior to the group's visit. We will do our best to accommodate your schedule to offer this training for your group leaders. There is no charge for this orientation.

Once you have attended the orientation, your name will be on file as an approved self-led group leader for future visits. Large groups must divide into smaller groups of no more than 12 people including at least one adult leader in each small group who has attended orientation. This policy reduces trail impact, minimizes noise and disruptions to other hikers, and provides a better experience for all group participants. (E.g. If you plan to bring a group of 60, five in the group must be adult leaders who have attended orientation). The Registrar will arrange a time for your orientation when you call to pre-register your group. Regular daily admission applies to everyone in your group (CNC members free). This fee can be paid in advance or at the gate.

2. Staff-Led Hikes: If you prefer CNC staff to take responsibility for leading your group, or if all of your adult leaders have not attended an orientation training, CNC will be happy to provide you with the service of trained guides for up to 2 hours for a surcharge according to the fee schedule below. Note: This is in addition to daily admission fees.

1 group leader	(up to 12 participants):	\$30	4 group leaders	(up to 48 participants):	\$120
2 group leaders	(up to 24 participants):	\$60	5 group leaders	(up to 60 participants):	\$150
3 group leaders	(up to 36 participants):	\$90	Groups larger than 60 cannot be accommodated.		

All CNC-led groups require you to provide one adult chaperone per group of 11 children. To arrange for a CNC leader(s), contact our Registrar at 831-1711 ext. 129 at least 2 weeks prior to your preferred date. If we cannot arrange staffing, or if other groups have already registered for the date, you will be asked to choose an alternate date. Scout groups may select one of several specific programs related to their badge work.

Once a leader has been confirmed for your group, you will be contacted for pre-payment. A credit card is required to reserve your group leaders by phone, or you may mail a check. A confirmation letter will be emailed to you as soon as payment has been received. Changes in the number of participants must be given within *seven days* of the reserved date in order to receive a price adjustment. **All programs are rain or shine.** Cancellations with at least 7 days notice will be refunded all but a \$25 processing fee; cancellations made with *less than seven days notice* forfeit their entire payment.

Nature PlayScape: CNC allows groups of up to 60 children to visit the Nature PlayScape, provided that they pre-register as above and that all group leaders have read and signed the [PlayScape Group Policy Agreement](#). No more than one group of 60 is permitted in the Nature PlayScape at the same time. Groups that have scheduled a hike cannot visit the Nature PlayScape unless pre-arranged. No drop-in groups at the Nature PlayScape will be allowed. The Nature PlayScape cannot be reserved for private parties.

Effective Date: June 2011