

**Policy & Procedure  
Nature School  
Fair Hill Nature Center**

**INCLEMENT WEATHER**

**Rain or Shine:** FHNC aims to provide a quality outdoor program and will do so in light rains, snow and safe weather conditions. The FHNC's goal is for students to learn about and appreciate the outdoors, and become more likely to play outside in their personal time. FHNC does not want to force students to endure unpleasant weather and become less likely to venture outdoors in their personal time.

**Inclement Weather:** FHNC monitors weather reports daily. If reports show potentially dangerous weather, extreme temperatures, high winds, heavy/long term precipitation, FHNC will contact the school (Assistant Principal) no less than 24 hours before the scheduled field trip. An alternate day will be offered. If weather reports are not dangerous, but "extremely unpleasant", FHNC staff will contact the school and offer an alternative date no less than 24 hours before the scheduled field trip. FHNC and the school will use their discretion to reschedule.

**Weather Decline:** FHNC Staff and students will not be outside in the case of:

- Winds higher than 20 mph
- Tornado watch
- Temperatures lower than 20 degrees (taking into consideration wind chill)
- Temperatures higher than 90 degrees (taking into consideration humidity)
- Presence of thunder or lightning
- Hail
- Blizzard conditions
- Un-shoveled snow deeper than 1 foot
- Excessive ice

In the case of a quick weather decline, every group will immediately return to the Nature Center, when it is deemed safe. The bus driver will pick up the group, if able. Groups are encouraged to shelter under the Covered Bridge or the Pavilion, if able.

**Ponchos & Outerwear:** FHNC will outfit all students with ponchos, raincoats, sweatshirts, gloves/mittens, pants and/or socks, as needed. In the presence of rain, all students are required to take a raincoat or poncho on the trail. If students are grossly underdressed for cold weather/wearing inappropriate attire or footwear, FHNC will speak with the teacher and make arrangements for alternate programming and/or fitting appropriate gear.

FHNC does not provide hats.

**Lunch:** If it is raining, students will eat at the Pavilion (covered picnic area), unless teachers prefer that the students eat inside.

**Alternate Programming:** Alternate or modified programming is implemented during indoor trips. This includes majority inside lessons and/or lessons in the yard of the Nature Center if weather is not dangerous. A completely indoor field trip is not desirable, therefore FHNC will seek to reschedule the field trip if it is appropriate.