

Event Details

Booking a birthday party at RNC will entitle you to 2 hours of fun! Three-year-old parties are limited to 1.5 hours (two 45 minute sessions). Please be aware that the party parent/adult must present for additional supervision for the entirety of the party.

Hour 1: An experienced FRNC educator will provide your chosen program to the children.

Hour 2: Children will enjoy refreshments, food, and activities of your choice. FRNC provides tables, chairs, plates, cups, utensils, and napkins. FRNC does not provide food, cake, beverages, or decorations.

Cost and Cancellation Policy

The base fee of \$400 includes programming for up to 20 children (including siblings and all children age 3 or older). Group size is limited to 15 children for three-year-old parties. Up to 5 additional children may be added for a fee of \$10 per child. **Parties may not exceed 25 children.** Certain party themes have a lower guest limit and added components such as campfires and crafts incur additional fees.

Full payment by cash or check is required within three days of booking. Checks may be made payable to Friends of Rye Nature Center. Cancellation requests must be made in writing 30 days prior to party date for a refund less a \$50 processing fee. No refunds are available less than 30 days prior to event.

Membership is non-refundable.

Membership

Birthday parties are a member-only benefit at the Environmentalist-level or above (\$100). Membership may be added at booking. As a member of FRNC, you are able to enroll in our member-only programs including Preschool Ecology, Forest Preschool, June Bugs, Summer Camp, and family campouts. Members will also receive discounts on public programs, vacation camps, school's out workshops, and afterschool programs.

FRNC is a 501(c)3 organization. Membership helps support the organization's general operating costs. Membership is 100% tax deductible.

How to Make Your Child's Party "Green"

Tableware

Rye Nature Center offers dishwasher safe and BPA free plates, cups, and silverware, included in the party cost. This helps save you time and money, but more importantly helps eliminate waste.

Invitations

We encourage you to send electronic or plantable invitations.

Decorations

We suggest you bring as little as possible, and if you choose to decorate you may only use eco-friendly and compostable decorations.

We do not allow balloons, piñatas, streamers, juice boxes, or plastic water bottles.

Party Favors

When purchasing favors for your child's party, we recommend looking for plantable, biodegradable, or eco-friendly favors. The Nature Center is able to supply a variety of party favors at an additional cost. Nature Center party favors must be requested at least one week prior to your child's birthday.

Vendors with Eco-friendly Supplies

- Whole Foods
- sustyparty.com
- ecopartytime.com
- greenplanetparties.com
- greenpartygoods.com

Clean-up Procedures

When cleaning up after your child's party, we will follow proper waste and recycling procedures. We will provide garbage, recycling, and compost bins for your use. Remember, the more you recycle and compost, the less we waste!



873 Boston Post Road
Rye, NY 10580

(914) 967-5150 • ryenaturecenter.org

"Green" Birthday Parties with Friends of Rye Nature Center



Go green for your child's next birthday party. Rye Nature Center hosts birthday parties that are eco-friendly, educational, and, of course a lot of fun! FRNC promotes parties with a green twist by providing reusable tableware and compostable goods. We can even supply eco-friendly party favors for an additional fee.

Choose from a variety of programs for all ages -- from animal adventures to herbal tea parties, there's something for everyone. Price and guest limit vary based on party theme. Additional charges may apply. An Environmentalist-level membership (\$100) or higher is required to book a party. Membership may be added at booking. If you choose to have your child's birthday party at RNC, leave the balloons behind and step into Rye's new green fashion.

Visit www.ryenaturecenter.org for more information. Contact Kris Karpinia at kris-karpinia@ryenaturecenter.org or call (914) 967-5150 to book your child's party today!

Ages 3 and up:

Animal Extravaganza: Enjoy a presentation from our “party animals” including a visit from Hercules the Bearded Dragon, an “air show” by Paloma the Dove, or wear Popcorn the Snake as a necklace.

Seasonal Hike: In spring and fall, children will search for earthworms, deer, birds, and more. In winter, children will track animals in the snow, search for wintering birds, and sled outdoors.

Scavenger Hunt: Children will obtain scavenger hunt cards to search for seasonal nature objects like sweet gum balls, acorns, leaves, sycamore balls, and worms.

Nature Crafts: Decorate your own planter - \$3/child; Bug jar - \$3/child; Pine cone birdfeeder - free

Plant Your Own Seed: You can plant your own seed to bring home and watch mature. This option can be completed all seasons of the year. Additional \$50.

Ages 4 and up:

Pollinator Power: Enjoy a visit from our resident insects, examine butterfly specimens, and learn about the life of a honeybee. Party will end outdoors, searching for local pollinators. Take home your own caterpillar larvae for an additional fee per child.
(Late March – May; September – October)

Herbal Tea Party: Brew a delicious pot of tea using herbs from the RNC garden and discover which flowers taste and smell the best! Children will create their own tea sachets to take home. Tea sets provided, costumes encouraged. Additional \$25.
(April – May; September – Early October)

Garden Party: Put your green thumbs to work! At this birthday party, children will plant their own gardens to take home. Projects include, but are not limited to, planting a salad garden with lettuce, radishes, and nasturtium flowers or making a fragrance garden with herbs such as mint and basil. Additional \$50.
(April – May; September – Early October)

Apple Cidering: Taste apple cider right off the press! We will explore the apple cidering process and everyone will get a first-hand experience with the apple cider press. Additional \$50
(September – November)

PARTY THEMES

Ages 5 and up:

Maple Sugaring: Learn how to tap sap the old-fashioned way! We will explore how maple trees produce sap and get a peek at the sugaring process in RNC’s own maple sugar shed. Children will even get to sample maple syrup. Additional \$25.
(February – Early March)

Nature Treasure Hunt: This program uses nature riddles to find a treasure hidden in the woods. Parent must provide an eco-friendly prize for the treasure. FRNC can provide a prize for an additional fee.

Mad Science: Add a science experiment to your child’s birthday! Create vinegar volcanos, egg parachutes, a potato light bulb, or a Diet Coke and Mentos geyser. This program will be modified based on your child’s age and interests. This program is best combined with another theme. Additional \$35.

Nature Crafts: Paint your own birdhouse - \$5/child; Paint your own turtle or butterfly planter - \$4/child

Campfire Add-On: A campfire can be added to the last 15 – 30 minutes of any party. Children will enjoy a chance to roast marshmallows, hot dogs, and more! FRNC does not provide food products. Additional \$50.

Ages 6 and up:

Pond Investigations: Start the party with an animal show about RNC’s pond critters. Spend the second half of the party investigating RNC’s ponds. Guests should be advised to come prepared with rain boots.
(Late March – May; September)

Choosing Your Theme

Select between one and two themes for the program component of your party. Whether you want to pair a Garden Party with a Seasonal Hike or have a Mad Science Animal Extravaganza, there is a unique party experience to offer every birthday boy or girl and all their friends! Please let us know if you have any questions about our party themes.

Ages 7 and up:

Rocks, Minerals, and a Pair of Safety Goggles: Follow a naturalist to the quarry. Children will get a chance to mine their own piece of feldspar, mica, gneiss, or quartz, just like real miners. Max group size: 15.

Map and Compass Treasure Hunt: There’s a treasure hidden in the woods, but to find it you’ll need to learn how to use a compass, read a map, and solve riddles. Parent must provide an eco-friendly prize for the treasure. FRNC can provide a prize for an additional fee. Max Group Size: 15

Ghost Stories by the Campfire: Bring a flashlight, marshmallows or hot dogs, and some courage. Children will listen to stories and poems around the campfire. Some are even about Westchester’s haunted forests, houses, and caves. Stories range from silly to spooky to scary! Additional \$50.

Ages 9 and up:

No Match, No Problem: Can you make a fire without using a match or lighter? Tens of thousands of years ago our ancestors could, and it kept them safe, warm, and fed. During this program children will get to try a variety of fire-making methods ranging from ancient to hi-tech. Additional \$50.

Wilderness Skills: If you had to spend a night in the woods unexpectedly, could you do it comfortably? This program can be customized to feature shelter building, foraging for wild food and safe water, or fire making. Additional \$25-50 depending on chosen program.

Additional Information

We offer parties on Fridays from 3:30-5:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 11:00-1:00 p.m. and 2:00-4:00 p.m. Parties are available from September through May. We cannot book parties during June, July, or August. Party slots fill up quickly, so we suggest you book your party at least 1.5 to 2 months in advance.

You may set up for your party 30 minutes before your start time and must vacate the space within 30 minutes of the party’s end. You will have access to a full kitchen (microwave, stove, refrigerator, freezer).