

## **Friends of Nature Parks, Inc. Earth Academy Day Camp Summer 2026 Scholarship Application Instructions**

This scholarship was established to honor the life and spirit of Hoyt Cotter. Hoyt spent years as a lively and humorous Earth Academy Day Camp (EADC) camper exploring Morningside and learning about the natural area around us. He became an EADC volunteer Junior Naturalist to help younger kids get the most out of their camp experience. This scholarship continues Hoyt's mission of connecting the next generation of campers to the world we share.

The Friends of Nature Parks (FoNP) is proud to support Earth Academy Day Camp programs by offering scholarships that cover 100% of registration fees to successful applicants.

- Scholarships are based on eligibility and availability. They must be applied for in advance.
- Registration for all camp sessions is *first come, first served* and scholarship recipients are not guaranteed a spot in any camp session.
- The City of Gainesville does not administer scholarship monies nor take responsibility for the selection of scholarship recipients. Friends of Nature Parks provides the scholarship funding for approved recipients.

### **To apply, register and participate:**

#### **1) Submit a complete application including:**

- Application form
- A letter from your child describing why they would like to attend Earth Academy
- **For educators, counselors, or mentors:** Please provide a brief description of why you recommend this child to be a camper at Earth Academy Day Camp along with your name and contact information for further questions.
- Verification of free or reduced lunch eligibility. You can request proof of free or reduced lunch through your child's school by calling the SBAC's Food Service Office at 352-955-7539, extension 1569. Ask that the letter be emailed to you and [earthacademy@cityofgainesville.org](mailto:earthacademy@cityofgainesville.org)

Applications should be submitted to Morningside Nature Center by:

-Email: [EarthAcademy@cityofgainesville.org](mailto:EarthAcademy@cityofgainesville.org)

-Mail: *Morningside Nature Center*, 3540 East University Ave Gainesville, FL 32641

-Drop-off at Morningside Monday-Friday 8am-5pm

\*Please email or call 352-393-8240 and let us know to expect your application

- 2) Await notification. Earth Academy staff will notify you of the status of your scholarship after it has been reviewed by FONP. If you are a Scholarship recipient, will be emailed registration instructions including a *coupon code* to enter during the registration process.
- 3) Register for camp starting 9am, March 9th online. Use your coupon to receive the awarded discount.
- 4) Attend camp sessions you registered for and have a great time!

# Friends of Nature Parks, Inc. Earth Academy Day Camp Summer 2026 Scholarship Application Form

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade/Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent (s)/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(Email address will be used for all camp communications and as your registration username)

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relation \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of household members? \_\_\_\_\_ Number of dependent children? \_\_\_\_\_

Is your child eligible for free or reduced lunch at school? \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide proof of eligibility with your application.

How many one-week camp sessions are you requesting scholarship support for? \_\_\_\_\_

Please note scholarships are based on availability and eligibility. The Friends may not be able to provide support for all sessions you request. Please rank which sessions you are interested in attending below.

**Use 1 for highest, 5 for lowest, and X if you cannot attend at all.**

<b>Session 1: Game ON! (June 8-12)</b>	1	2	3	4	5	X
<b>Session 2: Game ON! (June 15-18)</b>	1	2	3	4	5	X
<b>Session 3: Let's Celebrate! (June 22-26)</b>	1	2	3	4	5	X
<b>Session 4: Creative Creatures Camp (July 13-17)</b>	1	2	3	4	5	X
<b>Session 5: Creative Creatures Camp (July 20-24)</b>	1	2	3	4	5	X

Please describe any circumstances that are relevant to or may be helpful in the evaluation of this application.

**For educators, counselors, or mentors:** Please provide a brief description of why you recommend this child to be a camper at Earth Academy Day Camp. Please also provide your name and the best way to contact you (email, phone) for further questions.

The Friends of Nature Parks, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, will make scholarships available as long as funds last. A copy of the official registration (#CH10865) and financial information may be obtained from the division of consumers services by calling toll-free (800-435-7352) within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.