

# Chattahoochee Nature Center Birthday Party

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1) If it is raining what will we do?

If it is raining you will have several different options.

- a. If it is not raining hard and the children are properly dressed, the naturalist will be prepared to take them on the trail as usual.
- b. If it is too wet, the naturalist will take the children on a short hike staying on the paved paths close to the building. Doing this, you will be able to visit the Beaver Habitat, the Aviaries, and the Butterfly Garden.
- c. If it is raining too hard for this option, the naturalist will do a short educational program with bio-facts, play an educational game such as Bat and Moth (similar to blind-man's-bluff), and have an animal presentation.

### 2) Can we bring other food?

Yes. However, we only allow foods that are easy to clean up. We suggest dry, non-sweet food (pretzels, nuts, etc.) We CANNOT allow: Cake (frosting gets ground into the carpet), Drinks that stain (Kool-Aid, punch, etc.), Gum or Sticky Candy.

### 3) Can we bring ice cream?

Yes. Ice cream can be stored in the freezer in the downstairs refrigerator. However, we cannot guarantee that freezer space will be available. You must bring your own serving containers and spoons.

### 4) Can we get into the party room early?

Yes. You will have access to the party room 15 minutes before the party begins to drop off gifts, view the room set up, place additional favors, etc.

### 5) Can we decorate the party room?

No. The Chattahoochee Nature Center Birthday Party Room is painted and decorated to be fun, energetic, and educational. Balloons and streamers are unnecessary and not allowed. Besides, one of the reasons you came to us is so that you wouldn't have to spend time and money on decorating. If you would like to tour the birthday room, contact the Birthday Coordinator at 770-992-2055 ext. 249.

### 6) Can we bring a piñata?

No. Piñatas are just too messy.

### 7) Can we bring more than 17 children?

No. Based on experience of CNC staff, 17 is the maximum number of party children that can be educated and supervised effectively. Exceeding this number would jeopardize the quality of your child's experience.

### 8) There are 20 children in my child's class, may I have 20 invitations?

No. If all 20 children RSVP, then you would be left in the awkward situation of uninviting 3 children. We recommend you do not distribute invitations at school unless there are less than 17 children in your child's class. Instead, deliver invitations away from school by mail or in person.

**9) Can we have more than 4 adults?**

Yes. The basic cost covers 12 children & 4 adults. Additional adults are \$8 each.

**10) If we have less than 12 children attending the party, can we substitute adults for children?**

Yes. If you have 10 children, you may have 6 adults at no extra charge. If you have 8 children, you may have 8 adults at no extra charge, etc.

**11) If we have less than 4 adults, can we substitute children?**

No. The 4 adult spaces that are included in the basic fee are for supervising adults only. If you have only 3 adults at your party and 13 children, there will be an extra \$12 fee. Remember you must have 1 supervising adult for every 5 children.

**12) How many supervising adults must we have if the number of children is not a multiple of 5?**

If the number of children falls between 10 and 14, the minimum is 2 but we recommend three. If the number is between 15 and 17, the minimum is 3 but we recommend four.

**13) May we bring the birthday child's younger sibling even though they are younger than 4?**

Yes. If you must bring a child under the age of 4, we recommend that one of the parents take the child to enjoy the Nature Center on their own during the hike. The parent and child can then re-join the group for the animal presentation in the Birthday Room and/or for the cake in the Birthday Room. Party Favors are not recommended for children under the age of 4.

**14) Can we make special requests for trails to hike or exhibits to see while we are with the naturalist?**

Yes. The naturalist's primary goal is to provide you with a fun and educational experience while at the Nature Center. They will make every attempt to satisfy any special request while staying within time limit and following the rules of the Nature Center. However, we recommend that you heed suggestions from the naturalist about length of trails, age of children, fun things to see, etc.

**15) May we have lunch before the party?**

Yes. Feel free to use one or more of the outdoor picnic tables located on the meadow or near the Beaver Habitat. In case of rain, however, there is no inside space to have lunch. The other classrooms and the gym are reserved for rentals and other programs on the weekends.

**16) May we bring a lunch to have during the party?**

Yes. However we cannot allow pizza, fast food, or anything that will create additional mess. This is to maintain the room for the people who are having their child's party after you. Finger sandwiches work well. Please keep in mind that this will cut into your actual party time. Eating before or after may work best.

**17) What do we tell the parents who want to attend the party with their child?**

Tell them that it is the policy of the Chattahoochee Nature Center that parents drop off their children at the party. The reason for this is that often too many adults can distract the children during the program and make for too large a group on the trail. Four and five year old children do very well on the hike without their parents and the program is only 1-½ hours. For parents that are dropping off children, the invitation can be used as free admission for one person (in addition to the party attendee) to the Nature Center. They must present their invitation at admissions.

**18) Can we opt for games and activities instead of a nature hike?**

No. We are the Chattahoochee Nature Center and the outdoor, natural areas are one of the things that make our parties special. We will always do the program outside if weather permits.

**19) May we opt not to have a cookie cake?**

Yes. But the basic cost will remain the same. We cannot credit this cost towards any other expenses. You cannot bring your own cake. Our cakes come from Ali's Cookies, a local bakery. Here is the information they provide regarding allergies: *"All of our baked goods are made in the same bakery. Though nuts are not a part of every recipe, trace amounts of nuts or nut oils can be in any of our desserts. We recommend those with severe nut allergies refrain from eating our products. We use eggs, butter, cream and flour in our baked goods and currently do not have any gluten or sugar free products."* All cookie cakes and dairy from Chocolate Chips are certified kosher by the Atlanta Kashruth Commission. Please contact us if you have questions regarding the cookie cake.

[www.shipacookie.com](http://www.shipacookie.com)

**20) Which animal is the most popular?**

This really depends on the child. However, we do suggest snake, turtle, or gopher tortoise for the younger children and snake, turtle, gopher tortoise, opossum or owl for the older children.

**21) I need to cancel – what is your cancellation policy?**

Cancellations must be received in writing (fax or e-mail) two weeks prior to the scheduled program date in order to receive a refund minus a \$25 processing fee. We are unable to make refunds for cancellations/changes (including date changes) made less than two weeks in advance.

**22) I need more invitations – can I get them?**

CNC provides up to 17 invitations to party hosts. If you need additional invitations (over 17), the cost is \$5.00 per a pack of 5 invitations.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO HOSTING YOUR CHILD'S BIRTHDAY PARTY HERE AT THE CHATTAHOOCHEE NATURE CENTER! CONTACT US WITH ANY QUESTIONS AT 770-992-2055 EXT. 237.**