

SPARK Homeschool Co-op 2024 Summer Member Agreement

Our Approach

SPARK has a unique approach to learning that is relaxed and self-directed. Both children and parents take an active role in learning and building our community. We believe children (along with all other individuals) learn best through play and engaging in topics that are meaningful to them. We meet this philosophy through our group learning experiences that we refer to as “Offerings”.

Offerings are classes, workshops, activities, or projects led and assisted by parents that last about an hour covering a diverse range of subjects and interests. Offerings will be pre-scheduled for the summer, though if anyone would like to arrange one themselves reach out to the Board of Directors for assistance. If a member makes purchases towards an offering they will be reimbursed but are asked to provide an estimate for approval beforehand. Some Offerings are targeted towards certain ages, while others incorporate a range of all ages of learning together. SPARK activities are always optional allowing kids the choice to participate or not depending on their interests. We do ask that everyone remain respectful of the mentor or parent running the Offering by taking space away from the activities for loud play if they choose not to participate.

We are a non-profit and parent-run cooperative with a Board of Directors responsible for directing the overall policy and direction of SPARK and ensuring day-to-day operations run smoothly. The Board is made up of elected parent volunteers. In addition, the Board works cooperatively with families to coordinate and delegate specific duties to members. Parents may be asked to jump in and help facilitate activities or Offerings, organize, clean, plan, support, discuss, collaborate and care for our space, our daily tasks and each other. Families pay a membership fee and tuition which covers costs such as renting space, insurance, resources, hired mentors, and supplies.

Member Expectations

Below is a list of specific member expectations that we ask of each family. Please go over these with each person (including children) who will be attending SPARK. This helps keep everyone engaged, accountable, respected, and included in our co-op:

- 1. Actively Participate!** Give assistance as needed with daily clean-up, Offerings, special activities, and events.
- 2. Drugs, alcohol, and smoking are not permitted at SPARK.**
- 3. Inform the Board President if anyone attending SPARK in your family has ever been convicted of any abuse of a child.** Our parents work directly with children and for this reason we need to know this information ahead of time.

6. Be considerate, inclusive and respectful. Respect the personal space and belongings of others and practice asking for consent before we touch anyone's body or personal things. We also ask that members work together to help everyone feel included and safe.

7. Respect our space, supplies and toys. Follow the rules of the space we are renting and be proactive in keeping our space and equipment in good, safe condition by putting things away when finished. Talk to a board member before donating any toys/materials. We do not accept loans of toys/materials.

8. Do not disrupt offerings/activities. Be respectful of the learning of others by not disrupting offerings or activities while in progress.

9. Inform children of Restricted Areas. Members are not permitted in the front yard, barn, on the trampoline, or in animal enclosures.

10. Report dangerous or uncomfortable behavior to a trusted adult. If you see or experience something that makes you feel uncomfortable or unsafe please tell a trusted adult or board member right away.

11. Adults must supervise the children under their care. We are on a private property and have been given permission to occupy certain areas. There will be the residents and their employees at this location. Caregivers must be aware of these elements and guide children accordingly. Please provide proper gear for all weather conditions for yourself and the children under your care. The kids often enjoy unsupervised, independent play with friends in the woods or out of direct sight of adults. Adults are expected to seek out the children under their care to periodically check-in and in times of need or conflict.

12. Members are expected to work through the discomforts of conflict to help mediate conflicts involving kids in their care, and/or themselves.

Conflict Resolution Process

At SPARK, we strive to maintain a positive environment where children and parents enjoy their time together and treat each other with mutual respect and graciousness. We are a diverse group of people working together to provide a safe, respectful, and rich learning environment, but as with any diverse community, conflicts will arise. Should anyone experience a disagreement or conflict within the co-op, we encourage children and adults to communicate with each other to work through it. If a resolution can't be reached, children are encouraged to ask their adult for help. If adults are unable to reach a resolution, they have the option of requesting an outside mediator be hired. We hope that these suggested steps are helpful, but we acknowledge that this is just one pathway to peace.

Attendance

SPARK is a co-op and we do not have paid staff to take responsibility for anyone's children.

Each child in attendance must have an adult there taking responsibility for their safety and providing their support. Individual families sometimes make arrangements between themselves to take responsibility for each other's kids on certain days to provide some flexibility for parents. This is accepted as long as each family continues to contribute fairly to the co-op and meets their Member Expectations.

Attendance is not compulsory, but we do encourage regular attendance. Being prompt and ready to participate in Offerings and activities will help the day run smoothly and build community. Offerings are planned based on current enrollment so regular attendance helps leading families estimate group dynamics and material quantities. If you are not able to attend on your regular day(s), please post to the Facebook member group.

Food Allergy Policy

Several of our members have food allergies and intolerances. To ensure the safety of all members, we ask that everyone honor the following guidelines:

- Check with an adult before sharing food
- Eat only at designated areas
- Do not leave open containers of food unattended
- Clean all surfaces, including chairs, after eating
- Wash hands and face thoroughly after eating
- Do not bring cupcakes or other food items to share for birthdays or special occasions.

Sickness Policy

We ask that members not attend Spark while feeling ill or if they are contagious. Before returning to Spark, make sure to be symptom-free for 24 hours without medication from fever, vomiting, sore throat, and diarrhea. Also, please notify Spark if you or a family member test positive for Covid.

Schedule

Our regular hours are Mondays from 11:00am to 3:00pm. The daily flow is a mix of scheduled offerings and unscheduled free time where families can collaborate on projects or individuals can work independently. We all work together in the afternoon to do our clean up tasks before leaving. We sometimes have other days that we get together for special events such as a movie night, field trips, or a dance party.

Example of Daily Schedule

11:00am: Arrival & Setup
11:30-12pm: Free Play
12:00-1:00pm: Lunch
12:30-1:00pm: Lunch Huddle
1:00-2:00pm: Offering
2:00-3:00pm: Free Play & Cleanup

Facility Rules

Spark Homeschool Co-op members have permission to use all outside areas of the property excluding the barn, the front yard, the trampoline, and all fenced in animal areas.

Spark Homeschool Co-op members have permission to use the lower level bathroom.

Spark Homeschool Co-op members have permission to use the table for kids to play Dungeons and Dragons in the downstairs sunroom.

Spark Homeschool Co-op members will refrain from using any indoor space that is not listed above.

Spark Homeschool Co-op members who are minors will refrain from touching or feeding animals unless an adult is supervising and permission has been given from Stolzhof Farms owners.

Spark Homeschool Co-op will refrain from using the outside hose unless specific permission is given.

Spark Homeschool Co-op members will refrain from parking in the employee parking spots.

Spark Homeschool Co-op members will be informed if wind gusts are upwards of 40 mph in order to refrain from entering the woods due to the danger of fallen tree limbs.

Weather Closures

In case of dangerous weather, the decision to close may be made the preceding day, or in the early morning. Please check the SPARK Member Facebook Group to monitor closure status.

2024 Summer Calendar Overview

June

6/3/24

6/10/24

6/17/24

6/24/24

July

7/1/24

7/15/24

7/22/24

7/29/24

Enrollment, Tuition & Fees

We have a \$5 Family Membership Fee per summer session due once your enrollment is accepted. This non-refundable, non-transferable fee is per family and holds your spot for the current school year. You will receive an email with your Total Due and payment options. We charge tuition for children age 3+ by June 1, 2024. Younger siblings are always welcome at no additional charge.

SPARK has a daily enrollment cap so enrollment is first come, until we are full. SPARK also offers a sibling discount and free tuition for every sibling after the 3rd child. Below are the tuition options with discounts:

Full Summer:

First Child- \$40

Second through Third Child- \$37

4th plus child- FREE

Pick 5 Dates:

First Child- \$30

Second Through Third Child- \$27

4th Plus Child- FREE

Refunds: Our family membership fee and tuition is non-refundable.

SPARK Homeschool Co-op 2024 Summer Member Agreement

I have read, understand and agree to the SPARK Homeschool Co-op Member ByLaws. I agree to be responsible for the needs and safety of the children in my charge while attending SPARK Homeschool Co-op. I understand that SPARK Board of Directors reserve the right to deny participation to any child or family. I agree that by signing this agreement and submitting my non-refundable, non-transferrable Family Membership Fee, I establish my family's membership in the SPARK Homeschool Co-op.

By signing this document I am stating I have read, understand, and agree to the SPARK Homeschool Co-op 2024 Summer Member Agreement for myself, my family, any children in my charge, and any other caregivers for my child(ren). I agree to fulfill my member responsibilities to the best of my ability. I understand that if my family does not abide by the items on this Member Agreement, then it is grounds for denial of renewal for the following year or, in extreme cases, removal from the group during the year. The Spark board reserves the right to modify/change the member agreement at any time. Members will be informed of any changes if they do occur through the Spark Member Facebook Group.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____