



Root & Blossom Nashville Homeschoolers

PARENT WELCOME PACKET

Welcome to Root and Blossom Homeschool Community!

We are a warm, intentional group of families committed to protecting childhood, honoring family values, and creating a wholesome, nature-rooted rhythm for our children. This packet will introduce you to our mission, our rhythm, and how we work together to create a space that feels safe, grounded, and aligned.

Our Mission

We cultivate a community where children can grow in authenticity, imagination, and emotional safety. Aligned with traditional Waldorf principles, we honor childhood as a sacred season — protected, unhurried, and connected to nature, family, and meaningful rhythms.

We value goodness, balance, consistent friendships, and wholesome experiences that nurture intuition, creativity, and a strong sense of self. Our group supports families who desire a low-tech, developmentally aligned, nature-centered environment, with strong family connection, arts-integrated learning, and simple, intentional time together.

What does a Waldorf-aligned education mean to us?

The only goal is to protect and nourish the child's inner life. Their inner world—their imagination, emotional life, sense of wonder, intuition, and developing self—should be protected, honored and nourished. Waldorf feels different because it's not necessarily about "teaching", it's about guarding the conditions in which the child can grow whole.

We strive to honor this through our group core values:

Protection of Childhood - We honor childhood as a sacred season that deserves simplicity, wonder and emotional safety.

Family-Centered Living - Parents are the primary guides; home rhythms and family values shape the child's world.

Nature & Seasonal Rhythm - We follow the pace of the natural world, celebrating the seasons through story, craft, and play.

Wholesome, Developmentally Aligned Experiences - We avoid adult concepts, ideologies, and overstimulation; we prioritize imagination, play, and sensory-rich learning.

Community Warmth & Respect - We create opportunity for festivals, shared meals, parent involvement and multi-age relationships to help foster connection and being apart of something meaningful.

Simplicity & Intentionality - We choose what is nourishing, grounding, and meaningful — not what is trendy or performative.

Emotional Safety & Authenticity - Children imitate who we are, not what we say. We model calm, clarity, and kindness; we protect children, as we can, from emotional burdens beyond their stage of development.

We Are Not...

- A general playgroup or mainstream homeschool collective
- A space for introducing adult social issues, identity concepts, or ideological discussions
- Focused on screens, trends, or fast-paced academic pressure
- A place for debate, activism, or adult-centered conversations around children
- A high-stimulation, anything goes environment
- A drop-off or passive participation group

"The heart of the Waldorf method is that education is an art—it must speak to the child's experience. To educate the whole child, his heart and his will must be reached, as well as the mind."

-Rudolph Steiner

Root &
Blossom



NASHVILLE HOMESCHOOLERS



Our Rhythm: Root & Blossom Fridays

1st Semester: September - December / 2nd Semester: February - May

January is usually taken off for holiday break and reset.

Root Fridays (Every Other Week)

These are our “in-breath” days. These are slower and grounding.

Activities include, but are not limited to:

- Circle time
- Seasonal stories
- Handwork
- Art Expression
- Nature crafts
- Outdoor imaginative play
- Shared lunch or snacks

Blossom Fridays (Alternating Weeks)

These are our “out-breath” days.

Blossom days are often held off-site from our Root location and are designed to be exploratory, adventurous, and community-building, organized, as able, to be suitable for everyone in the group, but participation is at each family's discretion given your personal interests, scheduling and children's developmental stages.

Activities can include, but are not limited to:

- Museums
- Nature hikes
- Farm visits
- Botanical gardens
- Seasonal outings



Food & Community

Food is a grounding part of our rhythm. We have a community food table prepared at each Root day and, as a group, often bring food to share with each other. We have mixed dietary needs and work to accommodate each other as we are able. You are most welcome to only bring food and snacks for your family's needs. Bringing food to share is completely voluntary and not required.



Communication & Expectations

- We prefer to remain a low-tech environment requesting children refrain from devices and parents minimizing use as able.
- We use a group chat, text messaging, and the homeschool forum for updates
- Root Days meet at Scottsboro Community Club, 5102 Old Hydes Ferry Pike, Nashville, TN 37218
- Commitment to Root days are integral for building of community and creating consistent friendships - your commitment to our scheduled gathering times is greatly appreciated.
- Website: <https://www.homeschool-life.com/TN/RootBlossom/>
- Facebook: Root & Blossom Nashville Homeschoolers
- RSVP for Blossom Fridays is requested.
- We are a parent-led homeschool group and work together to give our kids this great experience. Your assistance as you can offer for classes, projects, and festivals is welcomed and an essential part of making this community thrive. Teamwork makes the Dream work.
- Dress for the weather—nature is our classroom
- Being prepared with drinks and snacks for your family proves helpful.
- We have a Sharing Table where families can bring or take items you'd like to gift/give away to other members of the group.
- We gather pictures all year to create a yearbook offered for purchase at the end of Spring Term. Please feel free to share captured memories with us to include in the yearbook.
- Waiver- liability and Photo



Family Fees and Financial Responsibilities

Root & Blossom Nashville Homeschoolers are currently renting space for our Root gatherings. Family fees collected by the semester go toward covering rent costs, website hosting and management, basic incidental support supplies like food table needs and occasional basic project supplies. The larger our family community the smaller our individual costs.

may be up to

Semester cost: currently \$150/semester

(varies based on co-op families participating) Can be collected via website, cash or check.

Classes:

Classes vary from free parent-led to private instruction where teacher fees or project supply costs may be divided amongst participating families.

Blossom days vary from free to small fees per particular activity. Costs per events will be conveyed and posted on individual calendar sign-ups.

Seasonal Festival Guidebook



In Waldorf education, festivals are meaningful because they help children feel connected to the natural rhythms of the year and to their community. Through beauty, story, and simple shared traditions, festivals give children a sense of belonging, wonder, and stability as the seasons change.

This guidebook outlines the festivals we celebrate, their meaning, and how we honor them in a modern, wholesome, developmentally-aligned way.

AUTUMN

Michaelmas (September)

Michaelmas in the Waldorf tradition is the Festival of Courage — a seasonal celebration that marks the shift from summer's outward warmth to autumn's inward turning. At its heart, Michaelmas calls children and adults to awaken inner strength, clarity of values, and courage as the days grow darker.

Activities: Dragon bread, Shared meal, Obstacle Course, Interactive Dragon play, Outdoor play and Harvest Crafts.

Pumpkin Village (Late October)

Pumpkin Village is a living story brought to life by older students, parents, and community members. It transforms the Halloween season into a warm, imaginative, and developmentally-aligned celebration of harvest, work, and wonder.

At its heart, Pumpkin Village is a place where children step into a gentle, magical world of villagers, craftspeople, and storytellers, each offering a glimpse into the meaningful work that sustains a community.

Activities: Older students and parents participate in creating a village and demonstrate professions at their tables as the children go from station to station learning about each, Ms. Pumpkin shows up with Pumpkin/Harvest crafts, Kids may dress up, Imaginative outdoor play and Shared meal.

Martinmas (November)

Martinmas in the Waldorf tradition is the Festival of Compassion — a quiet, heart-centered celebration of inner light, kindness, and generosity. It honors the story of St. Martin of Tours, whose simple act of sharing his cloak with a freezing beggar has become a living picture of warmth in the darkening year.

Activities: Making Handmade lanterns, Dusk lantern walk adventure, Coat collection, Campfire Story telling of St. Martin, Group sing-along, Warm cider and Symbolic desserts.

WINTER

Advent Spiral and Solstice Celebration (December)

The Advent Spiral (also called the Winter Spiral or Solstice Spiral) is a contemplative festival held near the beginning of Advent, when the days are shortest and darkness is greatest. In Waldorf education, it symbolizes the journey inward—toward stillness, reflection, and the quiet light of the heart.

Activities: Shared meal, Nature crafts, Community building of the spiral itself with evergreen boughs, Walking of the spiral with lit candles as a family.

Stocking Stuffer Exchange (Early December)

Those who would like to can join in a Stocking Stuffer Exchange where we sign up to make each other handmade and homemade stocking stuffers. Your items are collected, remixed, and sorted back out to you and everyone participating.

Candlemas (February)

Candlemas in Waldorf is a gentle festival of returning light, honoring the quiet, faithful shift from winter toward spring and nurturing inner warmth, patience, and hope.

Activities: Candle dipping (making candles), Art and crafts, Storytelling and Outdoor free play.

SPRING

Spring Equinox and Easter (March/April)

In Waldorf education, the Spring Equinox celebrates the earth's awakening, and Easter celebrates the soul's awakening — together forming a festival of renewal, balance, hope, and new life.

Activities: Spring art and nature mandalas, Nature walks, Garden activities, Egg dying, Storytelling and Outdoor free play.

May Faire Day (May)

In Waldorf education, May Day and the May pole celebrate the rising life-forces of spring, the joy of community, and the weaving together of beauty, movement, and nature.

Activities: Flower crown making, May Faire tables set up where children can sell handmade items and food to the group (makers market), Maypole dance, Shared meal, Spring crafts and Outdoor free play.

Bridge Ceremony (May, Last Day of Semester)

The Waldorf Bridge Ceremony is a rite of passage marking a child's completion and transition into the next year, symbolized by crossing a bridge into a new stage of growth, capability, and community belonging.

Activities: Shared meal, Talent show or showcase presented by participating kids and parents, Family/Student year review, Certificate and token gift, Bridge Walk, Possible bubbles and water play and Outdoor free play.

