



Our Featured Learning Locations

OUR CLASSROOM: Under open skies, in sunshine, and out in the world

The locations listed below are more than destinations. They are the places where we “do school” - where childhood learning unfolds.

These places offer a window into the landscapes our children come to know throughout the year—fields and forests, farms and familiar paths—where learning feels real, joyful, and connected to the world around them. While this list is not exhaustive, it reflects the types of places children return to as our program grows and local community relationships deepen.

Each destination is intentionally chosen within a 15–30 minute drive from our Ruckersville departure location, allowing for meaningful exploration without long or tiring travel days. Rather than moving quickly from place to place, children spend time in a carefully selected group of nearby locations across the seasons. Over time, these spaces become familiar. Trails once new feel known. Children notice subtle changes, ask deeper questions, and move with growing confidence.

Whenever weather allows, children spend the majority of the school day learning outdoors at these locations. Our daily nature hike and core academic blocks—**reading, writing, math, and**

integrated studies—are intentionally taught in outdoor learning spaces using prepared materials, small readiness-based groups, and teacher-guided instruction. Learning outside is not a break from academics; it is the setting in which academics come alive.

Learning builds through repeated experience—through memory, connection, and time. Children develop a strong sense of place, belonging, and care for the world they are growing up in.

It is a school day shaped by fresh air, open skies, and moments that stay with them—where learning doesn't just happen; it is felt.

Our Many Community Partners

Markets, Wedding Venues & Retreat Centers

- **Grange Commons Farmer's Market** – Our daily parent drop-off and pick-up location offering easy access for families and a smooth start and end to each school day.
- **Blossom Ridge Farm** – Blossom Ridge is a brand-new enchanted wedding barn situated on 80 acres, offering a warm, reliable indoor space with expansive Blue Ridge Mountain views, as well as surrounding fields and farm landscape for outdoor learning.
- **Seven Oaks Retreat Center** – Peaceful retreat setting offering access to a rotunda meditation room, indoor classroom, hiking trails, and an outdoor yoga deck.

Forests, Trails & Nature Preserves

- **Chris Greene Lake Park** – Forest trails and lake ecosystems ideal for wildlife observation, journaling, and quiet reflection.
- **Ivy Creek Natural Area** – Protected watershed with interpretive trails, native plants, and diverse habitats supporting ecological study.

- **Riverview Park** – River-adjacent trails supporting studies of water flow, erosion, and riparian ecosystems.
- **Preddy Creek Trail Park** – Wide forested trails and open meadows suited for longer hikes and group exploration.
- **Saunders-Monticello Trail** – Scenic woodland trail connecting natural landscapes with historic context.
- **And more . . .**

Parks, Open Green Spaces & Picnic Areas

- **Greene Community Park** – Open fields and walking paths for large-motor play and structured outdoor lessons.
- **Pen Park** – Expansive green space with river access and shelters for group activities and meals.
- **Greenbrier Park** – Creek crossings, wooded trails, and natural play areas supporting exploration.
- **Ragged Mountain Reservoir** – Loop trail supporting water systems study and endurance walking.
- **Rockwater Park** – Small community park well suited for short outdoor lessons and movement breaks.
- **Mountain Run Lake Park** – Lakefront trails and picnic areas offering calm water observation.
- **South River Picnic Area** – Shaded picnic areas with river access for water study and outdoor meals.
- **Darden Towe Park** – Large fields, river access, and dependable facilities for extended outdoor days.
- **Forest Lakes Central Park** – Loop trails and open greens ideal for walking lessons and group games.
- **And more . . .**

Farms & Working Landscapes

- **Botanical Garden of the Piedmont** – Native plant gardens supporting pollinator studies, habitat awareness, and seasonal cycles.
- **Tahija Arboretum** – Tree collections and quiet garden spaces supporting tree identification and mindful observation.
- **LaCross Botanical Gardens** – Diverse garden plantings supporting sensory learning, botany, and small-group exploration.
- **Grelan Nursery** – Gardens and woodland trails supporting botany, phenology, and seasonal observation.
- **And more . . .**

Community, History & Cultural Spaces

- **Greene County Public Library** – Literacy enrichment, research skills, and calm indoor learning opportunities.
- **Northside Library** – Community-centered learning, story time, and project research.
- **Gordonsville Library** – Quiet reading time, literacy enrichment, and small-group learning.
- **Orange County Public Library** – Story time, early literacy support, and research skills.
- **Madison County Library** – Community-based learning, reading enrichment, and reflective indoor work.
- **Culpeper County Library** – Expanded research opportunities, children's programming, and project-based learning.
- **James Madison's Montpelier** – Living history site supporting lessons on land use, agriculture, and early American history (select areas/by plan).
- **And more . . .**