



VillageKeeper Experience

Who is a VillageKeeper?

A VillageKeeper is anyone who is excited to be a part of a growing community focused on Earth skills, caring for future generations, and learning with our elders. We are a group of parents, primitive skills practitioners, young adults, and passionate folks that give to the White Pine community. We do this by being a caring adult for the students, a support to the instructors, and contributors to Forest School and after school clubs where our skills and our passions meet. See the end of this packet for different levels of commitment, and find one that works with you and your schedule!

As a VillageKeeper, what will I be doing?

White Pine has a flow to our day that we have found incorporates focused time, and allows for plenty of self-directed time with nature connection woven into the curriculum. Some things have changed, so check out how you may contribute to our community during a day of being a Village Keeper.

It often goes like this:

1. **Drop-Off is Self-Directed Time:** As a VillageKeeper, take time to help students with their belongings, get acquainted with the space for the day, and play games!
2. **Wolf Howl, Crow Call and Opening Circle:** You will hear a Wolf Howl to let the students know that the opening circle will begin in five minutes, and to get prepared to listen for the Crow Call to start the opening circle. As a VillageKeeper, you may find yourself helping students to settle for the opening circle. You'll share in Thanksgiving, song, and story while being a model for our students in how to listen and hold oneself with attentive posture.
3. **Guild Time is Focus Time:** As a VillageKeeper, you could be doing a couple of different things depending on the day and your familiarity with the curriculum. You may support Instructors in leading a guild or you may be leading your own guild. Clean up is an important part of the cycle of behaviors in guild time. Some of our

guilds provide opportunities for safety hazards so utilizing an observant mind supports everyone having a rewarding time!

4. **(Forest School) Lunch Time:** You will hear a Wolf Howl for a five minute warning for the students to clean up projects, and to get ready for the Crow Call. Students will then begin their lunch. This is a low key time where stories, jokes, and sometimes games occur. You may be asked to help a student open their lunch, prepare something, or recycle/toss their excess away.
5. **Wandering Walkabouts:** We love getting out into the forests and playing near the river during our day. We hear the Crow Call to end lunch and begin getting personal necessities (water, jackets, gloves, hats, First Aid Kits, etc.) You may carry tools and equipment needed for activities to be done in the Forest, our "Invisible Classroom". Sometimes you'll just be walking with the students listening to their whimsical notes told to you, a caring adult.
6. **Closing Circle and Pick-Up:** This is the end of the day, and may look a little like the morning. Students find a seat in a circle to share reflections of the day, and the Forest School Director signs out the students when their parents arrive. You may help lead a game, get belongings together, or share in socialization with the students.

Take time to get to know the amazing instructors present during your day. They can help you with nuances outside of a normal rhythm and can support you as your interest opens to leading games and guilds.

As you are familiar with the program then you may find that you desire to take on more of a lead on a project or be a paid staff member. Please, share your interests as they occur.

You may find our staff mentioning something that does not have a specific answer or a lot of context to it. This is a learning tactic that leads to more questions and greater discovery by our students. Feel encouraged to ask questions of any one at White Pine. All of our activities have stories and vocabulary that are specific to it. It can be confusing if you do not ask questions, so please, do not hesitate!

What is the time commitment for a VillageKeeper?

We have different levels of commitment and types of engagement for our VillageKeepers depending on interest.

Starting Point	Interest	Commitment	Activity in Forest School	Effect	Title
Parent	Be with child, learn what they learn, and be in the community	Wind → Fire	Play and supervise	Be with child and community	Co-Op
Shikari	Practice space for skills	Wind → Fire	Showcase skills and communicate	Enhance skills	Skills
Intern	Professional development	Earth → Fire	Float, play and find a project to contribute	Resume build/network	Pro
Educator	Learning how to be a forest school instructor	Fire	Float, supervise, and initiate creative mentoring strategies	Enhanced competency with concepts	Mentor

	Wind	Water	Earth	Fire
Commitment	flexible	1-2x Unit	3-5x Unit	Every Week
Perks	Present at Camp	First Priority to Adult Programs and Classes	Merch (Hat, Shirt)	Stipend

Stipend Totals			
Unit	Semester	School Year	Summer Camp All Week
10% off Adult/Youth program	40% off Adult/Youth Program	100% off Adult/Youth Program	100% off Adult/Youth Program

We look forward to hearing from you, and learning how your skills and passions can contribute towards the experience and joy of our community! Please fill out the Village

Keeper form at <https://whitepinewilderness.com/> on the Volunteer page (under the Academy tab). You will hear back from our Community Director on next steps!