

Wondering what it's like to be a member of the Lakewood Cooperative Preschool (LCP)?

Lakewood Cooperative Preschool is just that; cooperative. Read below to learn more about working in the classroom, supporting the operations of the Co-op through school jobs, required meetings, costs, and scholarships. These descriptions are to give a general sense of how the preschool works during full, indoor,

in-person operation. More detailed information is available at https://lakewoodcoop.net/.

Parents and Families share work in the classroom

Parents or caregivers of each student work in the classroom, typically about once a week during full, indoor, in-person operation. Working caregiver roles rotate between providing general support to the teacher in the classroom, overseeing the art room and activities for the day, and supervising the kitchen play area. Your Class Chair will prepare a schedule for working adults, based as much as possible on preferences and known conflicts. The schedule usually covers a few months, and can be adjusted to allow for the covering shifts if necessary.

Families share in operating the preschool

Each family is responsible for performing a job(s) throughout the school year and jobs vary in their complexity and time commitments. Most jobs require two to four hours per month while others ask considerably more. The Jobs Coordinator (job you could have!), with your feedback about personal preferences, skills and ability to commit time, will do their best to match people to jobs. Most jobs are generally classroom support (supplies, laundry, class social organizer) or operation support (fundraising, webmaster and Assistant Risk Management/Treasurer/Secretary) There are also board positions (Co-chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Enrollment Coordinator, Anti-Bias Coordinator) and other jobs such as set-ups, break-downs and deep cleans that families must help fulfill.

Each family must also commit to take part in either the beginning-of-the-year set-up, the mid-year deep clean or the end-of-year breakdown. A \$150 fine may be levied for families that do not fulfill this obligation.

For various reasons throughout the year, job duties may be traded or adjusted. We generally try to fill jobs with people volunteering to take particular jobs, but it must be understood that in the absence of a volunteer a job may just be assigned to you. Again, as much as possible we work with families to make a reasonable job match and appreciate the extra time some families give, both as necessity and as a valuable gift to the LCP community.

Parents and Caregivers attend monthly meetings

Working and growing together is key to the Co-op model. Parents and working caregivers will attend either a class-specific meeting or an all-school meeting one evening a month.

Monthly class meetings usually take place on the second, third, or fourth Wednesday of the month depending on your class and it is requested that, within reason, they be adults only. Caregivers will hear about the daily "goings on" in class and get updates and pertinent class information from the Teacher. The class meetings are also part of the Parent Education component of LCP. Your Parent Educator and/or Teacher will discuss parenting tips, child development, educational strategies and other topics the class decides are important or timely. Most importantly, class meetings allow for the parents, caregivers and teachers to come together in a low distraction safe environment to have open, thoughtful conversation about their kids, families, parenting and themselves.

All-school meetings happen a few times a year and are a chance for the entire community to come together to share news, updates, parent education material, and risk management information. The first All-School meeting serves as a welcome and brief orientation.

The September class meeting is a more thorough orientation to the class you are entering and covers risk management protocols necessary for working caregivers. The February All-School meeting is usually hosted by Lakewood's Anti-Bias Committee with a presentation or speaker relating specifically to Lakewood's Anti-Bias goals.

September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
All-School Welcome & Orientation Class Meeting & Risk Management training	Class Meetings	Class Meetings	Class social	Class Meetings	All-School Meeting (often hosted by the Anti-Bias Committee)	Class Meetings	Class Meetings	End of the Year All-School Meeting and Class socials	Moving Up Ceremony All School Picnic
All School Picnic									

Families share the costs of running the pre-school

The following table outlines the costs families can expect while being members of Lakewood Co-op for the 2023-2024 school year.

Item	Frequency	Due Date	Eligible for Scholarship	Bumblebees	Crickets	Dragonflies						
Required Costs												
Registration Fee	Annual	April 1, 2023	Yes	\$50	\$50	\$50						
Enrollment Deposit	Annual (specifically pays September and June's tuition)	April 1, 2023	Yes	\$177	\$261	\$415						
Tuition*	Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May	Prepaid on the 1* of the month for that month	Yes	\$177	\$261	\$415						
Annual Fundraising Tickets - 2 per family	Annual	TBD	Yes	\$100 (\$50/ticket projected cost)	\$100 (\$50/ticket projected cost)	\$100 (\$50/ticket projected cost)						
Optional Fees						·						
Annual Fund Drive	Annual	lcomed and encoura	ged									
Tuition Late Fee (Due with payment)	When applicable to payments made after the 15th of the month	With late tuition payment	Yes (***)	\$15	\$15	\$15						
Payment Processing Fees**			Yes (***)	Check – No charge eCheck – No charge Credit Card –\$6.37 (3.4% + \$0.35)	Check – No charge eCheck – No charge Credit Card – \$9.22 (3.4% + \$0.35)	Check – No charge eCheck – No charge Credit Card – \$14.46 (3.4% + \$0.35)						

^{*} Paid tuition is non-refundable and is not prorated for early withdrawals. The first month's tuition and enrollment deposit will be prorated for students enrolling in LCP after the first day of school.

Scholarships are available

Lakewood Co-op offers our families a comprehensive scholarship program, depending on the financial condition of our preschool and available scholarship funds. While income levels are a factor, we encourage any family with special circumstances that may affect their ability to pay full tuition and fees to apply. The application process is strictly confidential and reviewed only by the Scholarship Committee. Visit https://lakewoodcoop.net/financial-aid for more information or email Scholarships@Lakewoodcoop.net.

How to learn more

Visit <u>www.lakewoodcoop.net</u> or contact <u>info@lakewoodcoop.net</u> for more information.

^{**}Assessed by payment processing provider. Lakewood Coop receives no portion of this fee.

^{***} Discretionary review by Scholarship Committee