ALNC Mask Policy - Updated May 2021:

ALNC continues to require face masks indoors and outdoors for all adults and children over the age of 2 participating in ALNC programming. Staff, volunteers, contractors, parents and caregivers of children participating in ALNC programs are required to wear a mask inside the building or in the presence of our students. We also encourage other visitors or hikers to continue to wear masks when encountering others near our facility or on our trails.

While public health authorities have lifted mask requirements for vaccinated individuals starting June 2, the CDC and Public Health Madison & Dane County are still strongly recommending masks be worn by adults and children over 2 in childcare or youth-oriented settings.

We are requiring this because:

• Children under age 12 are currently unable to be vaccinated.
• Physical distancing is difficult to implement or maintain for caregivers and is a challenge for children, changing often and suddenly.
• While the majority of our programming is outdoors, we transition in and out often (e.g. bathroom breaks) and spend time in hybrid indoor/outdoor spaces.
• Many children need assistance taking masks on and off, which is difficult for our staff to do safely with multiple children.
• It is important for staff and parents to model mask-wearing for the children.

With our core audience not yet having access to vaccination, and in efforts to continue to provide access to our programming to high-risk children and other individuals, we will continue to take these simple precautions to provide a safe environment until further notice.

This policy will be reviewed and revised as guidelines and circumstances regarding vaccine access and recommendations for children and their caregivers continue to change.

Thank you for your adherence to this policy and for doing your part to protect the health of our community.