



Family Crew Organization Meeting Minutes

7/20/2021

9:30 a.m.

GreenWood Atrium

Chair Person: Kara Lyon

Administrator: Tracey Nelsen

Greeting: Hi! I'm Kara Lyon. I am new to GreenWood, both as a parent and as a member of its staff. I have been hired to help in the office, in the library, and as the Chair Person of the FCO. I am a mother of three, all of whom will be attending GreenWood for the first time this coming school year. My husband and I chose GreenWood because of its focus on mindfulness & healthy habits, and how this aligns so well with the goals that we are trying to accomplish as a family in our home. We are thrilled to be a part of the GreenWood community!

Reading:

1. GreenWood Mission: Our mission is to provide a quality holistic education to all students by providing opportunities for them to be active, knowledgeable, creative, and conscientious individuals. GreenWood inspires a healthy balance in life through healthy eating habits, exercise, personal discovery, service learning, and environmental stewardship.
2. GreenWood Vision: Our vision is that every GreenWood student will gain an understanding and appreciation for all aspects of their life. Our vision of student achievement has three dimensions: Mastery of Skills and Knowledge, High-quality Work, and Character. *To accomplish our vision, GreenWood will model its services after six core HEALTH Values:*

Healthy Habits, Environmental Stewardship, Achievement, Leadership, Thinking Creatively and Honoring Diversity.

<https://www.greenwoodcharter.org/mission-visionw>

Meeting Objective: To introduce new parents, and remind returning parents, what FCO (Family Crew Organization) is, and to invite all parents to be an active part in it.

Agenda Items:

1. What is a Crew?
 - a. Our school culture encourages all members, parents and students alike, to become crew, not passengers. This means that students and parents are known well by at least one adult in the school. Every student is part of a Crew. Every parent is part of a Crew – the Family Crew Organization.

2. Who is needed in the FCO?
 - a. EVERY parent is invited to participate and be an active part in our crew! Our school website states: *“All parents and guardians of children enrolled at GreenWood Charter School are automatically considered members of the FCO. Each member is welcomed as a valuable contributor to the mission and goals of the crew. The success of the FCO rests on the commitment and contributions of our parent body.”*
<https://www.greenwoodcharter.org/fco-family-crew-organization>

The GreenWood Charter Handbook states: *“Remember: our children and our school need your energy, expertise, and concern. We are a non-profit organization and as such depend upon our volunteers. Every one of you has something unique and valuable to offer; active participation in your child’s learning community benefits us all. Thank you for your participation!”*

<https://www.greenwoodcharter.org/handbook-charter>

3. How can parents support the students and our School?

a. Parents can support at Home by daily:

- i. Reading 20 minutes
- ii. Practicing math for 10 minutes
- iii. Eating 5 plants
- iv. Saying 4 kind words & give hugs
- v. Sitting down for 3 meals
- vi. Limiting media to 2 hours
- vii. Exercising 1 hour outside
- viii. Drinking water

b. Parents can support the School by:

- i. Providing service to the school for 30 hours annually; single-parent families are expected to volunteer for 15 hours annually. (see handbook)

<https://www.greenwoodcharter.org/handbook-charter>

4. Why do we need parents to volunteer in our school?

a. It's important for all of our parents and guardians to know that we need your individual talents!

- b. Our Website states: *"Our Family Crew Organization provides necessary leadership to organize parent volunteers in coordination with school needs. Through this organization, parents can find a variety of ways to contribute their talents to the school. Families are surveyed during registration to help us understand their interests and opportunities for volunteering and/or acting as community experts. Families are asked to stay current with Family Crew opportunities to grow GreenWood via our FaceBook page, newsletters, and teacher newsletters/emails."*

<https://www.greenwoodcharter.org/fco-family-crew-organization>

5. Where can parents help?

- a. We will need help in the following areas. A Google Form is being sent to you to find out where you are most interested in serving

our students. There may be more needs as the school year progresses.

- i. Fieldwork Crew (3 parents to support teachers in each Grove)
- ii. Classroom Parents
- iii. Classroom Parent Coordinator
- iv. Fieldwork activities (support teachers & students with transportation, supervision, etc)
- v. Safety committee
- vi. Garden (with Coach D.)
- vii. Library (with Kara)

b. School Activities this year:

- i. "Start with Hello" week & Family Night- **Sept 20-23**
- ii. Safety Week – **Oct 11-13**
- iii. Fun Run – **Oct 28**
- iv. Intensive Week – **Dec 13 – 17**
- v. Healthy Habits Week – **Jan 18 – 21**
- vi. Carry Kindness Week – **Feb 14-18**
- vii. Earth Week – **Apr 18 – 22**
- viii. Intensive Week – **May 23 – 27**
- ix. Science Fair – **TBA**
- x. Book Fair – **TBA**
- xi. Meet & Greet – **TBA (July)**

6. When can parents volunteer:

- a. During the school year, the FCO has regular meetings once a month. Monthly meetings are open to ALL parents. Small children are welcome to come and sit on laps or play quietly.
- b. Our monthly meeting this school year will be held on the first Friday of the each month at 9:00 a.m.
- c. We will keep these meetings to an hour or less.
- d. We do encourage everyone to attend these meetings in person, if possible.

Action Items

1. Contact Kara at fco@greenwoodcharter.org.
2. Kara will be sending out a Google Form soon for you to let her know your interests, hobbies, and expertise that would be useful in our school. Also, leave any other comments about your volunteer interests in this form. Even if you filled out a paper survey, please fill out the Google Form as well. (Your feedback was so helpful in putting together this Google Form! Thank you!!)
3. Check out our school's website for important information about the FCO, to read our Mission & Vision, to get familiar with the GreenWood Handbook and Charter, to see this year's school calendar, and much more at these links:
 - a. <https://www.greenwoodcharter.org/>
 - b. <https://www.greenwoodcharter.org/handbook-charter>
4. If you haven't registered your student for this year's school year, please get on the school website to register!

Discussion Items

- Remember that small children are welcome in some volunteer situations, but not all. Check with teachers for their individual preferences on each volunteer case-by-case basis.
- Possibility of streaming the FCO meetings via Zoom?
 - This question came up during our meeting. At this point, plan on this happening.
- In addition to morning meetings, can we hold regular evening FCO meetings as well, to accommodate parents who are not able to attend morning meetings?
 - Since many seemed interested in this, we will most likely be planning regular evening meetings as well. Stay tuned for more information on when these meetings will be held.

- FCO is a place where we support, encourage, and uplift each other, our students, our staff, and our school. These meetings will have an atmosphere of positivity, kindness, and inclusivity.
- FCO will only approve and plan activities and extra-curricular activities that are in line with our Mission & Vision, and that support our students. Our parents come up with so many awesome ideas, but it is Kara's job to say "no" or to re-direct ideas that do not line up with GreenWood's Mission & Vision.

Important Upcoming Events:

- Back to School Night – **Aug 16**
- FCO Meeting- **Sep 3**
- "Start with Hello" Week and Family Night – **Sep 20- 23**

Next Meeting Date & Place: Friday Sept 3, 2021 @ 9:00 a.m. in the GreenWood atrium. (During this meeting, we will start planning "Start with Hello" week and a Family Night held during that week)