Hive Membership

Finding your village is hard.
Finding your kinfolk is even harder.
We think you'll find both in the Hive!

When you enter the Hive village, we hope your kindred spirits await you. And they likely do because Hive members share core values and build a thriving, inclusive village together. They voluntarily choose to journey life alongside each other, mindfully raising the next generation together.

Please review our beliefs to know if Hive membership is right for you.

At Anie's Hive we believe deeply in sovereignty, respect, and holistic living.

We expect all Hive members to:

Be respectful to themselves and others

Uphold the core components of healthy relationships. This includes Safety & Limits, Accountability, Communication, Trust, Cooperation and Support (as outlined in Red Light.)

Practice respectful parenting methods for conflict resolution & child guidance (Red light as example)

Respect the individual lifestyle choices of other Hive members

Be kind to animals and plants in the Hive

Respect the property of the Hive and others

Be life-long learners who are open to sharing and receiving knowledge and skills

We strive to create an environment where:

Age appropriate autonomy is always respected

Emotions are treasured

Whole person development is fostered

Children's life questions are answered honestly at an age appropriate level

If the Hive sounds like a village your family would love- please come visit us at our next Open House or Free For All event to see if we're right for you. Already feel confident it's going to be a great fit? Submit your membership enrollment forms or sign up for your first class today.

We look forward to meeting you!

Membership dues, terms, and dismissal

Membership dues are $10 and will be collected annually for any member participating in Hive community events and activities. Annual membership fee will be waived for any family who participates in any Hive membership paid classes, programs, workshops or activities during the calendar year. Members may revoke their membership at any time.

All members agree to follow Hive policies and should align with the village's core values. Probationary membership status ends 90 days from date of form submission or after 4 Hive visits, whichever period is longer. During the probationary time period, families discover if they are a good fit for Hive membership and participation. Both Hive and family parties may revoke membership during the probationary period. After the probationary period ends, a breach of Hive policies may result in progressive disciplinary action and may include verbal or written warnings, fees, suspension or revocation of membership.

Anie's Hive members are enrolled regardless of race, gender, religion, or national origin and in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If your child or family has special considerations, we will always do our best to accommodate your needs within the limitations posed by our farm house/property. To ensure your needs are best met, please contact Anie's Hive in advance of your first visit.

Anie's Hive will consider member input regarding policy at an annual membership meeting each November. Meeting attendance is voluntary and optional. Policy updates outside of annual updates may occasionally be necessary. Generally, though not required, a membership input meeting will be announced with at least 24 hours' notice. Final policy updates are at the discretion of Stephanie Buzzell and all policy changes will be announced with at least 48 hours written notice to all members.

Members gain access to Hive programs, classes, and workshops and may attend Hive village community events for free. Members may rent the Hive for birthday parties, etc. Members may also discuss opportunities to offer classes within the Hive. Discuss your potential requests, offerings and time requirements with Stephanie Buzzell. Everyone entering the Hive is required to complete a participation waiver.

General Policies

Parking

You may park in our parking lot, in front of the red garage (it's ok to block the garage door), or along the street if necessary. You may block in our personal vehicles depending on where they are parked (red Dodge truck, black Chevy car, silver Ford car)

Drop-off care programs

A care enrollment form must be completed for EACH child participating in drop-off care programs. The first half hour of drop-off programs is the recommended arrival window. The last half hour of the program is the dismissal window. Children must be picked up by the program end time. Late pick-ups may be charged a rate of $60/hour charged in 10 minute increments with a 10 minute grace period. If you are running late please be sure to communicate that with Anie's Hive. If no communication has been made, emergency contacts may be called to arrange alternative pick up options for your child.

Hive Closures

Any closures due to inclement weather, illness or otherwise will be communicated to all families registered for events on the day of the closure. All closures will also be announced on our group page. It is recommended that you check the group page prior to attending a drop-in class.

Cell phones

Life calls, we get it! We just ask that you silence your phone during gathering and closing circles. We also request that you refrain from cell phone use during arrival/dismissal times for drop-off care as it is an opportunity to transition your child and learn about their day. Please consider minimizing cell phone use during your time in the Hive to better enable engagement with your child and community.

Photos and Videos

Members may take photos/videos of their children during events and other children may be part of their picture. **Members may NOT post to any social media or any online website/forum** any picture(s) taken at Anie's Hive delivered through email, text or otherwise, or any picture(s) taken with their own devices that includes children other than their own. Members agree that doing so is grounds for immediate termination from Hive membership. Anie's Hive requires specific permission to post or share pictures.

Heat

Our woodstove is located in our family living room. The living room is gated off from the main Hive rooms and kitchen. If you choose to utilize the room while at the Hive with your child, do so at your own risk and supervise your child carefully as the stove may be hot.

Burning wood comes with stacking (and processing wood). Please do not climb on the wood piles or machinery. See more regarding "off limit areas" in the exploring the Hive section.

Close the Front Door!! We're not telling you to be quiet, we're literally asking you to close the door. Winter months and heating bills make Mr. B sting (just a little). With many people in and out each day, we appreciate your help keeping the Hive warm. While it might feel rude to the person behind you, the little bees in the Hive appreciate if you do not hold the door open for families making their way down the walk (use your discretion and don't slam it in their face either!) When exiting the Hive please say all of your good byes and gather all of your belongings before opening the door. Make entrances and exits as swift as possible during the winter months. Thanks!

Fire evacuation

In case of fire, please gather at the red garage.

Sharing and Personal Belongings

We don't force sharing but we do encourage waiting and turn taking. We encourage communication about play goals. Community toys are available for everyone. If it is not in use or communicated as part of a game, any available toy/supplies are options for your next activity. If a toy is brought from home and left unattended in community space and another children picks it up to take a turn, the child will be allowed to finish their turn. Upon turn completion the toy owner may opt to put their toy away. If you do not wish to share a toy with others, it is your responsibility to leave it at home or put it away immediately after use. Our son's personal belongings are treated the same way and are shared or remain in his room during Hive hours.

Belongings are left at your own risk. While we encourage respect for property and will do what we can to keep track of things from home, I am not responsible for belongings that are lost or broken while present in the Hive.

Messes

If a spill/mess occurs, don't sweat it. Encourage children to help clean up in an age appropriate, safe manner. If something breaks, let Stephanie know and we will clean up or repair as needed. Please encourage your child to clean up games, personal spaces used, etc. but please do not worry about the "general mess" when you leave the Hive.

Health and Wellness

There's no buzzing around it.

Everyone has opinions, questions and concerns about the topic of the hour.

Is it snack time??????????????? What's for food???????????????

Oh sorry, I got confused for a second, that's the topic of the minute. Topic of the hour seems to be ***coronavirus best practices***. And our country has never been so divided.

At Anie's Hive we believe deeply in sovereignty, respect and holistic living. As we respect the individual lifestyle choices of other Hive members, it should go without saying that we respect you regardless of what choices you make for your family. That being said, Anie's Hive members also believe in holistic living which for our family (and most Hive members) includes alternative wellness practices and uninhibited prana (breath of life force energy). As a member, you should align with the core Hive values. Please consider carefully how your family aligns with these core values, what they mean to you, and how it may impact your Hive experience with others.

Illness policy

Incubation period, viral load, and asymptomatic spread are new words for some, but they've always been a part of our repertoire. Here at the Hive we have always been conscientious about health and wellness. Therefore our approach hasn't changed in the post-coronavirus world.

Regardless of what virus, bug, bacteria, or germ you think you may or may not have, we kindly ask that you stay home if you have or recently had any of the following symptoms:
Fever, vomiting, diarrhea, persistent coughing/sneezing (especially if wet, barky/raspy, frequent) significant nasal discharge/congestion (especially if thick, green, or frequently wiped on clothing/hands to be "shared" with others), nausea, sore throat, earaches, rashes, or are generally feeling too unwell to actively participate in Hive activities.

We will welcome you back to the Hive when you are symptom AND medication free for at least 48 hours and are happy to reschedule with communication prior to your absence. Send a text, message or give us a call and let us know you won't be making your class.

We understand children get sick, spread "the love" easily, and that some children are far more susceptible to severe complications than others. We do our best to balance the needs of all children, however, if your child is immunocompromised, please be aware that the Hive is a community space and mildly ill children may be at Hive programs. While we require families to stay home while actively ill- unknown asymptomatic, pre-symptomatic and prolonged carriers are always possible with ANY infection. We encourage personal responsibility when entering community space as only you know how susceptible your family is and the risks you are willing to take in community spaces.

If you are unsure if you should attend with your symptoms, please contact Anie and we can consider together the best decision for the day. Children who fall ill during Hive programs will be cared for with love and comfort measures until an adult is able to pick up. Children dropped off with prohibiting symptoms will be asked to leave. Mention this paragraph for a free Mindful Monday class, but remember treasures are best discovered on your own, so please don't give away our little secret to friends. Repeated attendance in violation of health and wellness policies may result in revocation of Hive membership. If our family is ill we will contact all registered families for the day and will announce the closure on our group.

General Wellness Policies

-All children must wash their hands when returning inside from outdoor play, after toileting, and before helping with any culinary activities. Hand washing is encouraged immediately after hamster, goat or chicken interactions.

-Please flush toilet paper only! Do not flush wipes (even if it says flushable), cloth diaper liners, paper towels, sanitary napkins, etc. Thank-you for your cooperation.

-Please abstain from all cigarette smoking and vaping use while in Anie's Hive and refrain from cigarette smoking on the property. Thank you for your cooperation.

-In solidarity with Hive members who have overcome or struggle with addictions, we ask that you refrain from bringing alcoholic beverages to any Hive event.

Please contact the Hive if you have any questions regarding our illness policies. Thank you for continuing to keep the Hive a healthy place for all.

Bee well! 💙 Anie

Supervision and Injury Prevention

A child's work is play and play is messy (and sometimes risky!) Remember, while visiting the Hive your children are your responsibility. Please supervise your children thoughtfully. The following sections outline supervision requirements in the Hive.

Exploring the Hive

Our home is your Hive with a few limitations:

-The garage side of our front yard is not for play. Please stay on the mud-kitchen side of the walkway or play in our back yard or woods.

-Please do not climb on or play with any of our farm equipment. Admire from a distance.

- Our property is essentially a rectangle. You can use the fence line (on garage side) and tree line on the other side and imagine extending that straight back into the woods. We ask that play exploration stop at the neighborhood personal use trail that cuts through the back portion of our woods. Please do your best to generally respect our property lines if playing in the woods.

-Our bedrooms are our personal space. You may use our upstairs sitting room as a quiet, calming space but please do not enter our bedrooms.

-Our animals love getting love, but they are still animals. All animal interactions come with inherent risk. Please supervise children carefully when interacting with the animals. Goats love to jump and love food and they WILL "jump" for food. Encourage children to keep hands low when feeding treats to prevent goats from jumping/stretching up for treats.

-Be kind to our animals. Never chase any of our animals. If the animal shows any signs of displeasure or continually walks away, please give them space.

-Please only enter the goat fenced area through the house back door. Do NOT open the green gate out back. Thank you for helping keep our goats secured.

Discoveries

Hundreds of years of land use means amazing rocks, bones, and artifacts sometimes surface for discovery. Enjoy! It also means scrap metal, glass, nails, etc. sometimes surface along with it. Here at Anie's Hive we remove all hazards as we find them and keep things in operational order but our eyes can't be everywhere and our feet haven't touched every inch of earth. This is your village and we request your help. If you are exploring in the woods and discover a hazard we haven't discovered yet, please alert us. If you find something isn't functioning properly, please let us know and we will repair it. It takes a village and we appreciate your assistance keeping our Hive hazard free.

Risky Play

At the Hive we encourage autonomy and exploration while providing appropriate supervision. It sounds simple but it's quite the balancing act being both cheerleader and safety manager. Trust me – when your child finds the balanced log and soars into action as the next best tight-rope walker, my heart is right there with them.

As a cheerleader I applaud their feats! My heart loves to see children engage in the nature play they crave- jumping, running, climbing, building and experimenting. They crave it because they NEED it! Whole body movements and nature play allow for the proper growth and development children need.
Children develop new skills by trying (and sometimes first failing at) new things. They learn that constructive failure paired with creativity and persistence can lead to success. The failure is an opportunity to build better judgement skills, learn about cause and effect, experiment and make new discoveries. When children are allowed the opportunity to fail in a supportive atmosphere, they often choose to push personal comfort levels to see through new success. This entire process builds tenacity, confidence and important life skills.

As safety manager my heart is still right there with them- jumping into my throat as they jump to new heights! Nature play is inherently risky. And anywhere there's risk there is always the potential for minor or serious injuries, which we of course all strive to minimize. Most injuries can be avoided by approaching each situation with safety and respect.

While at the Hive we ask that everyone make judicial decisions when guiding safety limits and always have the wellbeing of everyone in mind. Offer words of wisdom (and caution) if applicable and redirect play if necessary. Seek Stephanie if you are unsure about a situation.

Injuries

If an injury occurs, please alert Stephanie. All injuries will be treated with compassion and any necessary first aid will be administered. If injuries occur during drop-off care, Anie's Hive will inform parents/guardians of all minor injuries/incidents at pick up and any major injury/incident as soon as it is safe to do so. Children are always able to call parents for reassurance at any time, for any reason.

Child Guidance

When it comes to guiding children's behavior, the goal is to maximize children's growth and development, while keeping them safe. At Anie's Hive we believe respect, clear expectations, and consistency minimize negative behaviors. We strive to create such an environment together. However, undesirable behaviors are an inevitable part of development and communication in the early years. When assisting children with undesirable behaviors, we expect everyone in the Hive to respond in a gentle and responsive manner. Recognize the emotion behind the behaviors, remind the children of our expectations and offer acceptable ways to express the emotion or handle the situation. If the behavior continues and further response is required all imposed consequences must be logical, related, and helpful. The Hive always has calming space available for children who need time to process emotions and regain self-control. We do not force apologies at the Hive but rather work to make situations right with our friend's when needed.

This may be offering an ice pack or a hug, returning a snatched toy, etc. Genuine apologies and compassion grow as children foster friendship and connection. If this approach is relatively new to you, you may use the Red Light method as an example model.

If at any time during your Hive visit you are unsure how to handle a situation between children, or are unsure if something is safe, please alert Stephanie to the situation and she will assist in guiding the situation. During drop-off care, Anie's Hive will always honor safety, love, and respect when supervising children.

Food is fuel for our mind and body!

Each family is responsible for bringing all the food your family/child needs for the time you will be present at the Hive.

This may include several snacks and/or lunch. We have water, coffee and tea available for Hive families. However, you may wish to bring a water bottle or (non-alcoholic) drink of choice. If your child is participating in a drop-off program, please pack sufficient snacks/lunch as appropriate to the timing of the program. You are welcome to use our stove, toaster oven, or microwave to reheat food as needed. Our cookware is mostly stainless steel, cast iron, and stoneware. All have a learning curve for cooking and/or washing. At Anie's Hive we are always willing to teach skills to children or adults if you are unsure about something. That goes in the kitchen, around the 'farm', and all of life - *We are all life-long learners!* Lend a helping hand - if you use a pot/pan, please give it a quick wash so the next family can use it. Please do not use soap on cast iron/stoneware.

Occasionally the Hive will offer food as part of our activity offerings.

We prefer foods that are as unprocessed as possible, gmo-and artificial dye free, and local, organic practice when possible. We minimize refined sugars, grains, and preservatives and completely avoid artificial food dyes.

Any food we offer as a Hive activity meets our family standard and we hope it meets yours too**.** But if you have any questions or concerns, just let Stephanie know. If you choose to bring community food contributions to the Hive, we ask that you honor these values to the best of your ability as most Hive members have similar food preferences. It is also kind (but not obligatory) to consider our gluten-free, dairy-free, and vegan members when selecting food offerings for community consumption.

Allergies and Dietary Restrictions

If your family/child has special dietary needs I am happy to work with you to accommodate those needs for food-based Hive offered activities. While we can accommodate needs for activities and are skilled to provide safe drop-off care for most allergy needs, we are not an allergen free home and each member brings their own food for the day. Therefore, we cannot guarantee an environment free of allergens or surface cross-contamination. If your family or child has food allergies, I will discuss this carefully with you and decide the best approach to ensure your family's safety.