



December is Holiday Season

There are plenty of reasons to celebrate during December: Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa to name a few. This season is a time for joy and wonder, connecting with friends and family and caring for ourselves and others. Remember that many struggle this time of year with sadness and poor mental health, so watch out for each other.

Did you know that December is also Write a Friend Month, Read a New Book Month and, possibly most important to the CACFP, Root Vegetables and Exotic Fruits Month?! So celebrate however you like, but take good care of yourselves along the way.

You are important to Wildwood and the families that depend on you every day to care for their most precious resources. Let us know how we can help you this month.

Fun Events in December

- December 1 - National Eat a Red Apple Day
- December 3 - National Green Bean Casserole Day
- December 12 - National Gingerbread Day
- December 16 - National Ugly Christmas Sweater Day
- December 19 - National Oatmeal Muffin Day
- December 21 - Winter Solstice

From the National CACFP Sponsors Association (NCA)

NCA's 2022 "Imagination Station" Nutrition Calendar includes a great module in December covering meal patterns, best practices, healthy habits, parent connection and business records. Don't forget to use the resources in your Nutrition Calendar each month.

Subscribe to NCA's weekly eNews by visiting their website at <https://www.cacfp.org/enews/>. Get recipes, information about upcoming training, ideas for fun activities, parent resources and more!

Menu Tip: Whole Grains

All grain products on the CACFP must be made with whole grains or enriched meal and/or enriched flour, or bran or germ, to be creditable. But **one grain product per day must be Whole Grain-Rich**, meaning that 50% or more of the flour weight of the product must be whole grain. Check the ingredients list on the package to see if the first ingredient is whole wheat flour, whole oat flour, whole corn flour or brown rice.

Try meeting the one-WGR-item-per-day requirement by serving a whole grain at Breakfast. Choose a cereal like Kix, Cheerios, Life or Frosted Mini Wheats. Other options include whole wheat toast, whole wheat bagels, whole wheat English muffins or oatmeal (all oatmeal is Whole Grain).

Visit Wildwood's website at www.wildwoodonline.org and click News | Child Care Resources for additional resources to help determine what foods qualify as Whole Grain-Rich.

Fun Winter Crafts & Snacks



Make these adorable snowman crafts with styrofoam cups and scraps of felt and construction paper



Fun with fruits and veggies over the holidays



CLAIMS

CORNER

Claims Corner has reminders to help providers receive the most money possible each month.

- Remember to mark Whole Grain Rich (WGR) items on menus. If serving only one meal per day that requires a grain, it must be a whole grain. If a WGR item is not marked, the meal with the lowest reimbursement will be deducted.
- If school-age children are in care during winter break, please mark them "Out of School" in KidKare.
- If you are open and providing care on a holiday, please mark this on your KidKare calendar or on your paper claim. Otherwise, Wildwood must deduct meals served on holidays.
- Claims must be received by the 5th of the month in order to be processed and paid in the same month. Claims received after the 5th will not be processed or paid until the following month. Wildwood cannot extend this deadline to accommodate weekends, holidays or mail delays. Consider claiming online, using priority mail or using email (sue@wildwoodcacfp.org) or fax (303-730-0461) to submit your claim.
- Enrollment forms expire annually. When Wildwood advances the claim month, children whose enrollments expired the previous month will "fall off" your roster. Call Wildwood to have children reactivated, but remember meals will not be reimbursed for those children until an updated enrollment form is received.
- Best practice is to submit updated enrollment forms to Wildwood by the 25th of the month to allow time to process this paperwork before the next month's claim. Refer to your Claim Error Report (online claims) or Claim Information Form (manual claims) to see which children are expiring soon.
- Refer to your Claim Summary or Claim Error Report to see where deductions were made. Never make the same mistake twice!

***The last day Wildwood can receive original WY & CO October claims for processing is December 26, 2022.**

***The last day Wildwood can receive original WY & CO November claims for processing is January 25, 2023.**

Welcome New Field Representatives!

Samantha Manchester - Delta, Eagle, Garfield, Grand, Gunnison, Jackson, Mesa, Moffat, Pitkin, Montrose, Rio Blanco, Routt and Summit counties

Taree Hopson - Adams, Arapahoe, Cheyenne, Clear Creek, Crowley, Denver, Douglas, El Paso, Elbert, Jefferson, Kowa, Lake, Lincoln, Park and Teller counties

Alicia Escobedo - Kit Carson, Larimer, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, Weld and Yuma counties

Referral Program Continues

If you know providers who are not participating in the Food Program, refer them to your Wildwood field representative today. Once your referral joins Wildwood and submits their first claim, enjoy two years of Standard Precautions training from Wildwood for free!



Holiday Hours for Wildwood Offices:

Thanksgiving : Thursday, Nov. 24 Closed
Day After Thanksgiving: Friday, Nov. 25 Closed
Christmas Eve: Friday, Dec. 23 Closed
Christmas Day: Monday, Dec. 26 Closed
New Year's Day: Monday, Jan. 2 Closed

Submit a Claim Every Month

Wildwood is a small, non-profit business that sponsors child care programs participating in the USDA food program. For every claim submitted each month, Wildwood receives a small payment from the state to help cover the cost of keeping our offices open. These administrative funds cover expenses for office space, utilities and staff.

We are asking for your help to support our small business so that we may continue to support child care providers. Please submit your claim each month, no matter how many or how few children you serve.

Wyoming Providers: Simplify Your Paperwork

In the past, Wyoming providers have been instructed to complete the Enrollment Renewal Report and submit all updates to Wildwood in October, regardless of children's enrollment expiration dates. October 1 is not a required deadline for paperwork, and Enrollment Renewal Reports often are missing data like school schedules and address changes. Best practice is to watch for children whose enrollments expire soon, have parents/guardians complete and sign paperwork and submit it to Wildwood by the 25th of the month but spread paperwork out throughout the year rather than waiting until October. Please reach out to your rep with questions.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.