

DEER CROSSING



High Sierra Summer Camp
SINCE 1983

2019 CAMP INFORMATION PACKET

It's almost time for a fun and adventurous summer experience for your camper! Much of how we operate camp is due to our fabulous no-road-access, off-the-grid, wilderness location in Eldorado National Forest. Located on beautiful Loon Lake and surrounded by mountains and pine forests, this High Sierra location affords campers a much-needed respite from our busy, information- and electronics-heavy lives. Campers return home with greater respect for our planet, increased self-confidence through accomplishment, and a sense of "I can do this", as well as new friendships and memories that can last a lifetime.



Deer Crossing Camp is authorized and operated under a Special Use Permit with the Eldorado National Forest. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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CAMP LOCATION & FACILITIES

Deer Crossing is located on Loon Lake in Eldorado National Forest in northern California (near South Lake Tahoe, as the crow flies), at an elevation of 6400 ft. (1950m). Nearby is Desolation Wilderness, a beautiful area surrounded by mountains up to 9000 ft. (2743m) in elevation. Deer Crossing Camp is about 50 miles (80 km) from Pollock Pines, the nearest town.

There is no road access to camp. Campers hike 2½ miles (4 km) into camp; all gear, supplies, food, mail, etc. are boated in.

Facilities

A rustic lodge, with kitchen and dining hall, overlooks the lake. The adjacent two-story building houses the arts-and-crafts room, workshop, and storage downstairs, and First Aid Room and Director's office upstairs. Bathrooms have hot showers, flush toilets, and sinks.

Deer Crossing is fully self-contained. We provide our own electricity, gas, and water. Gas generators create electricity, powering refrigerators and lights. Propane tanks provide gas for the kitchen stove. We pump lake water through filters, ultra-violet, and chlorine sanitation systems for the kitchen and bathrooms. A septic system serves the kitchen, bathrooms, and showers. Camp complies with California State Health Department Regulations for Organized Camps and is inspected annually by the El Dorado County Health Department and the USDA Forest Service.

Sleeping Accommodations

Campers and staff are housed in tents on wood or sand platforms, located in separate areas for girls and boys under the pine trees behind the lodge. Two or three campers share each tent, although younger campers may share a larger tent in each area. Staff also sleep in tents, with female staff tents scattered around the girls' area and male staff tents throughout the boys' area. All tents have foam mattresses and all campers should bring warm sleeping bags.

Communications

There is no landline or cell phone service at camp. For emergencies and communications between camp and the Bay Area Office, we use satellite phones. They are used to make essential outgoing calls and to communicate with camp's Bay Area Office. Camp also has satellite-based Internet service, which is limited to staff use only. If you have an urgent message for your camper, call camp's Bay Area Office for assistance.

Climate

At Deer Crossing's 6400 ft. (1950m) elevation, days are usually quite pleasant, low 80's to mid-90's F (27–35° C). Nighttime temperatures can get very cold. During our mountain summers, it occasionally rains—and sometimes hails—typically just for a day or two at a time.

BAY AREA OFFICE

If you have any questions, contact camp's Bay Area Office:

690 Emerald Hill Road | Redwood City, CA 94061
(650) 369-4382
(650) 465-5087 (summer emergencies only)
mail@deercrossingcamp.com

2019 CAMP SCHEDULE

Two-Week Sessions

Session 1: June 16–June 29
 Session 2: June 30–July 13
 Session 3: July 14–July 27
 Session 4: July 28–August 10

Leadership Sessions

Counselor-in-Training: June 16–June 29
 Leader-in-Training: June 30–July 27
 Guide-in-Training A: June 16–July 13
 Guide-in-Training B: July 14–August 10

One-Week Sessions

Session 1A: June 16–June 22
 Session 2A: June 30–July 6
 Session 4A: July 28–August 3

CANCELLATION INSURANCE

Every summer, families plan for a stay at camp and a broken leg, pneumonia, or something else gets in the way of a camper coming to camp. If you haven't already, we strongly recommend that you consider purchasing program cancellation insurance. This insurance is available through several companies, such as TravMark (<https://www.youth-studentplans.com>), AM Skier (<https://www.amskier.com/peaceofmind-insurance/>), and Campers Insurance (<http://www.campersinsurance.com>). International campers can obtain insurance through TravMark's Abroad Insurance and other firms. Read the policies carefully!

REQUIRED FORMS & INFORMATION

All forms required for your camper's participation in camp are available in your online account (click **Parent Login** on the camp [website](#)). Completed forms are due at least two weeks before your camper arrives at camp.

All campers must have:

- An up-to-date tetanus vaccination or booster.
- Medical insurance valid for use in the United States for the length of their stay at camp.

<i>Health History</i>	Online form
<i>Physician Exam</i>	Print and fax back or upload online. This form must be based on a physical conducted within 12 months of your camper's arrival at camp.
<i>Immunizations</i>	Needed only if immunizations not included on Health History. Print and fax back or upload online.
<i>Parent Authorization</i>	Print and fax back or upload online
<i>Raft Release*</i>	Online form
<i>CIT Application*</i>	Online form to be completed by camper
<i>LIT Application*</i>	Online form to be completed by camper
<i>GIT Application*</i>	Online form to be completed by camper and parents
<i>CIT-LIT Reference Form*</i>	Print and return to camp office (fax, mail, email)

*If applicable. Special forms for CIT, LIT, and GIT programs should be completed as soon as possible after enrollment.

PACKING

At Deer Crossing, campers are expected to be responsible for themselves and their belongings. Please have your camper pack their own gear so they know what they have and where it is.

- See *Camper Packing List* at end of this packet.
- For ease of carrying in our wilderness location, use a backpack (for backpacking) and duffel bag for gear. No footlockers or suitcases. Roller bags don't roll well on rough terrain.
- Pack only items that you are willing to lose, forget, or break. Campers are responsible for their own belongings. Give your camper a list of important items to bring home (e.g., fishing rod, sleeping bag, boots). We do not return items that are forgotten.
- Label all personal items with camper's name.

Sleeping Bag

Sleeping bags should not weigh more than 6 pounds and should be rated for at least 30° F (-1.1 C) to keep your camper warm at night in our mountain location.

Hiking Boots

Other than a sleeping bag, hiking boots are the most important item that campers bring to camp. Boots should be made of sturdy material, give good support, cover the ankle, lace up, have a sure-grip sole, and be well-broken in. Wearing shoes without ankle support in a mountainous terrain invites, at the least, sprained ankles and may mean missed opportunities.

Backpack

A backpack is required for two-week campers to go on backpacking trips; no backpack means they go canoe-camping instead. It is the most convenient way to carry gear in the wilderness. An internal frame pack with hip belt is preferable. It should fit your child and accommodate clothing and food for three days. Tie sleeping bag on top of pack and ground pad below it.

Fishing Equipment

If your camper plans to fish for trout, we recommend bringing: rod, 6–10 hooks, split-shot sinkers, tub of worms, bottle of salmon eggs, clear-float bobbers, and favorite lures, flies, or trolling rigs. **Campers 16+ years old must bring a fishing license.**

Medications

All medications—over-the-counter, prescription, supplements—must be listed on your camper's Health History form. Bring enough medications to last the entire time at camp. If your camper uses an inhaler or epinephrine injector (e.g., EpiPen), send two to camp—one for your camper to carry (we provide a fanny pack for use at camp) and one as back-up. Keep all medications in the original packaging that identifies prescribing physician (if Rx), name of medication, dosage, and frequency of administration. We cannot accommodate medications that require refrigeration.

Do not pack medications in camper luggage. Give them to the designated staff member at the bus stop, or if parent is driving, to the designated staff member at the boat ramp.

Not Allowed

Cell phones, electronic equipment of any kind (e.g., laptops, Kindles, iPods), hair dryers, knives (camp will supply when needed) or other weapons, fireworks, matches, gum, and pets. Leave valuable jewelry, watches, expensive cameras, etc., at home.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

On the camp bus, campers can begin making new friends before they even arrive at camp. Cost is \$70 each way. If you haven't signed up for the bus and want to do so, contact the camp office and let them know the direction (TO and/or FROM camp) and stop (Cupertino, Concord, Sacramento). Bus space is limited; reservations are handled on first come, first served basis. Please arrive at least 15 minutes early.

One-week campers: Bus transportation is available only TO camp. Parents must pick up campers at Loon Lake at the end of the one-week session.

The camp bus is air-conditioned, with restroom. Staff members supervise bus trips. On each trip, campers eat lunch in Sacramento, so should bring a bag lunch or money for a fast-food lunch.

You must sign your camper on and off the bus with the designated staff member. Give the staff member all camper medications. Stow gear on bus as directed. At the end of camp, make sure you have all your camper's gear and medications. Campers board and depart the bus as directed by staff.

Bus Times

Going to camp: Sundays, June 16, June 30, July 14, July 28 (first day of each session)

Depart Cupertino	8:30 AM
Depart Concord	10:30 AM
Depart Sacramento	12:30 PM

Returning from camp: Saturdays, June 29, July 13, July 27, August 10 (last day of each two-week session)

Arrive Sacramento	2:30 PM
Arrive Concord	5:00 PM
Arrive Cupertino	6:00 PM

Bus Pick-up and Return Points

Cupertino—De Anza College, Stevens Creek Blvd. and Stelling Road

Enter at east entrance on Stelling Road. Turn right to Parking Lot B. The bus (All West) will be parked in Lot B in front of the solar panels. For a map of De Anza, go to www.deanza.edu.

Concord—The Willows Shopping Center, 1975 Diamond Blvd.

Exit Hwy 680 onto Willow Pass Road in Concord. Take Willow Pass Road to Diamond Blvd. Turn left onto Diamond Blvd to Willows Shopping Center (on left). The bus (All West) will be parked near the REI store.

Sacramento (Rancho Cordova)—Pet Club, Sunrise Blvd. and Zinfandel

Exit Hwy 50 onto Sunrise Blvd. Go north on Sunrise, turn left on Zinfandel, turn right into Pet Club parking lot. The bus (All West) will be parked behind the Chevron gas station on the corner.

If You Miss the Bus to Camp ...

The bus will not wait for late campers. If you miss the bus, it is your responsibility to drive your camper to Loon Lake.

If You Miss the Bus Returning from Camp ...

If you miss the bus, your camper will stay on the bus to its next stop. At the Cupertino stop, camp staff will escort your camper to our Redwood City office to await your arrival. Call camp's Emergency Number: (650) 465-5087 to arrange pick-up.

PARENT TRANSPORTATION

Meeting Place: Loon Lake Boat Launch Ramp Parking Lot

Allow plenty of time to get to Loon Lake so that you are on time (see *Map*, provided separately). Due to the distance from the boat ramp to camp, staff do not wait at the boat ramp area for late arrivals.

Arrival: Sunday (first day of your session), 3:00 PM

Staff meet campers arriving by bus and parent transportation, and escort them in groups to camp via the Loon Lake Trail. It is an easy hike of about 2½ miles. Gear goes in by boat.

Departure: Saturday (last day of your session), 11:30 AM

Staff escort departing campers as a group out of camp on the Loon Lake Trail. Gear goes out by boat.

Distances & Driving Times (approx.)

Cupertino to Loon Lake	220 miles, 5 hours
San Francisco to Loon Lake	200 miles, 4½ hours
Concord to Loon Lake	160 miles, 3½ hours
Sacramento to Loon Lake	100 miles, 2½ hours
Placerville to Loon Lake	65 miles, 1½ hours
Ice House Road exit off Hwy 50 to Loon Lake Boat Ramp	29 miles, 1 hour (two-lane mountain road)

Drop-offs and Pick-ups at Camp

Sign your camper in or out of camp with the designated staff member. Give the staff member all camper medications. Take camper gear to location directed by staff. At the end of camp, make sure you have all your camper's gear and medications.

If You Are Going to be Late ...

- Once you pass Placerville on Highway 50, cell phone service is spotty and frequently non-existent, especially as you get closer to Loon Lake—*where there is no telephone or cell phone service*.
- As soon as you know you will be late, call camp's Emergency Number (650-465-5087). If you will be less than 30 minutes late, the staff will wait for you. If you will be more than 30 minutes late, the staff (and your camper) will return to camp and come back to the Loon Lake Boat Ramp area at your estimated time of arrival.
- If you do not call camp's Emergency Number, camp staff will not return to the Loon Lake Boat Ramp area to look for you. They will return only when the Bay Area Office has provided your expected arrival time.
- Your camper will be supervised at all times. If you pick up your camper very late, pick up the next day, forget completely and we adopt her, there will be an extra charge.
- Suggestions: Consider the camp bus. Get a good map (e.g., AAA Sierra Nevada-Lake Tahoe & Yosemite Areas); GPS units do not register the Loon Lake boat ramp. Plan to arrive early. Give yourself plenty of time. There are picnic tables, drinking fountains, and restrooms at the Loon Lake Boat Launch Ramp area. Keep dogs on a leash. This is a wilderness Forest Service campground.

Nearby Accommodations

[Best Western Stagecoach Inn](#), Pollock Pines, 530-644-2029

[Strawberry Lodge](#), Kyburz, 530-659-7200

VISITING CAMP

We hope you can visit Deer Crossing Camp. Seeing our wilderness location in person will help you relate to your camper's experience and help you better understand how camp operates. Camp tours are scheduled only on the first day of each session.

2019 Visitor Days: Sundays, June 16, June 30, July 14, and July 28
Meeting Place: Loon Lake Boat Launch Ramp area
Time: 3:00 PM
Reservations: (650) 369-4382 at least 3 days in advance

Staff will guide you in and out, give you a tour of camp, and provide refreshments. It is a 2½-mile (4 km) hike, 45–60 minutes each way. Wear comfortable hiking shoes, long pants, long sleeves, and jacket. Bring water.

MAIL

Campers love to receive mail that is newsy, upbeat, and supportive of what they are doing at camp. At our wilderness location, there is no mail service to camp. Camp staff pick up and take mail to the nearest post office, about 50 miles from camp, at least once a week (sometimes more often). To ensure that your camper is included in mail call:

1. Mail your first letter 3–4 days before your camper leaves for camp (especially for one-weekers). It can easily take 5 days for a letter posted in the Bay Area to get to your camper.
2. **DO NOT SEND FOOD** of any type to campers. If sent, it will be collected by a staff member and will not be returned to campers. If you want to send your camper more than a letter or postcard, consider a magazine, book, deck of cards, or small game.
3. Use the address below for camper mail. Do NOT send camper mail to camp's Bay Area Office in Redwood City as this will delay delivery even more.

Camper's Name
Deer Crossing Camp
P.O. Box 1227
Pollock Pines, CA 95726

4. Send all mail by US Postal Service. The PO does not accept mail from UPS, FedEx, etc.

HOMESICKNESS

Many campers will experience some level of homesickness while at camp. This is normal and a key growth opportunity for children at summer camp. Camp staff are trained to help campers through the feelings. You can help minimize the effects of homesickness by reading the homesickness article on the camp [website](#) (under About > Resources) or *Homesick and Happy: How Time Away from Parents Can Help a Child Grow*, by Michael Thompson, PhD.

If the first letter(s) you receive from your camper says she is homesick and you have not received a call from either the Camp Director or the Office Manager, your camper is now fine and enjoying camp. We will not keep campers at camp if they are excessively homesick.

CAMP STORE

The Camp Store stocks basic items such as toothpaste, sunscreen, shoelaces, single-use cameras, batteries, tampons, stamps, and camp water bottles and tee-shirts. Please pack all items on the packing list so that few purchases are necessary. \$75 is suggested for two weeks. We encourage all campers to turn their money into the Camp Bank at camp for storing; camp is not responsible for any money that is not stored in the Camp Bank. Any balance is returned to the camper at the end of their stay.

EMERGENCIES

You will be contacted as quickly as possible in the event of a natural disaster, accident, safety or security threat, or medical emergency affecting your camper. Deer Crossing Camp does not communicate with camper families or anyone else through the press.

As appropriate, we provide wilderness first aid and CPR-certified staff services as well as transportation to Marshall Hospital in Placerville.

CAMPER DISMISSALS

One of the most difficult things for the Camp Director to do is to dismiss a camper. Before leaving for camp, please discuss with your camper this important condition of enrollment:

Enrollment Application Terms & Conditions #3:

Dismissals: Camp will dismiss a camper immediately whose conduct or influence is unsatisfactory, dangerous, illegal, or at the discretion of Deer Crossing Camp, is detrimental to the camp and/or other campers. This includes, but is not limited to, possession of or any involvement with recreational or illegal drugs, alcohol, smoking, weapons, vandalism, fighting, and any other disruptive behavior that is determined by Camp to threaten the health, safety, or well-being of any person, or the smooth operation of Camp. In the event of dismissal, there is no refund and the parent agrees to pick up their child at camp as soon as possible.

In the event of a dismissal, we provide staff supervision, baggage, and transportation services to the Second Dam on Loon Lake at a pre-arranged date and time to meet parents.

CAMP'S FEDERAL EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (FEIN)

77-000-7875

DEER CROSSING



CAMPER PACKING LIST

LABEL EVERYTHING WITH CAMPER'S NAME!

CLOTHING

- _____ 4 t-shirts
- _____ 2 long-sleeved warm shirts *and/or* sweatshirts
- _____ 1 warm jacket
- _____ 6 underwear
- _____ 3 pairs long pants/sweatpants
- _____ 2 pajamas/sleepwear
- _____ 2 swim suits
- _____ 2 shorts *or* cut-offs
- _____ 6 pairs socks (2 wool, 4 cotton)
- _____ 1 pair sturdy athletic shoes
- _____ 1 pair OLD tennis shoes for water activities
(water shoes are *not* recommended)
- _____ 1 pair sturdy, ankle-high hiking boots, broken in
(*not* trail or other shoes)
- _____ 1 pair work gloves (for forestry projects)
- _____ baseball cap *or* brimmed hat
- _____ poncho *or* raincoat
- _____ beanie *or* warm hat

TOILETRIES (no food or flower scents as they attract wasps and animals)

- _____ comb and hairbrush
- _____ shampoo
- _____ toothbrush and toothpaste
- _____ lip balm (SPF 15+)
- _____ sunscreen (SPF 15+, waterproof)
- _____ insect repellent (solid stick or lotion; sprays harm tents)
- _____ biodegradable liquid soap
- _____ 1 package moleskin (footcare/drug store)
- _____ personal hygiene supplies
- _____ medications/supplements (*must* be listed on health form)

DO NOT BRING

- open shoes of any kind (e.g. sandals, flip-flops, Crocs)
- electronics (e.g. cellphones, Kindles, iPods)
- matches or fire starters
- knives or weapons of any kind
- bar soap
- jewelry or make-up

EQUIPMENT

- ** _____ backpack (internal frame preferable, with hip belt)
- _____ sleeping bag (warm to 30°F, not over 6 lbs.) and stuff sack with compression straps
- _____ blanket (for unseasonably cold spell)
- _____ pillow
- _____ twin fitted sheet (for camp mattress)
- _____ sleeping bag liner (if desired, helps keep bag clean)
- ** _____ ground pad (dense, non-absorbent foam; if Thermarest-style, bring patch kit)
- ** _____ 4' x 8' piece light plastic (for backpacking, under pad)
- _____ 2 bath towels
- _____ laundry bag
- _____ sunglasses with UV protection
- _____ extra pair of eyeglasses and case, if applicable
- _____ headlamp *or* flashlight with extra batteries
- _____ 1 quart (1 liter) water bottle (no glass)
- ** _____ Sierra cup and metal spoon
- _____ watch *or* travel alarm clock
- _____ stationery, stamped envelopes, pens

**For two-week campers only. Backpacking items are not needed for one-week campers; adjust clothing items for one-week use.

LAUNDRY

- Do-it-yourself: camp provides wash tub, laundry soap, and line.

OPTIONAL

- _____ spending money (\$50-\$75 recommended)
- _____ bag lunch or money for lunch (if taking camp bus)
- _____ musical instrument and case (e.g. guitar, flute)
- _____ single-use camera (label with name)
- _____ rock climbing shoes
- * _____ wetsuit (water activities)
- * _____ skateboard helmet (windsurfing)
- _____ mask, fins, snorkle
- _____ trout-fishing gear
- _____ books/reading materials (paper, not electronic)
- _____ swim goggles
- _____ UV swim shirt/rash guard

* DCC has these items, but your own may fit better.