

DEER CROSSING



High Sierra Summer Camp
SINCE 1983

2021 CAMP INFORMATION PACKET

Summer is fast approaching and with it comes the fun and adventure of overnight camp! Much of how we operate 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 gives 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 Camp 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 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 campers share each tent, although up to five 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. We use satellite phones 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

2021 CAMP SCHEDULE

Two-Week Sessions

Session 1: June 20–July 3
Session 2: July 4–July 17
Session 3: July 18–July 31

Leadership Session

Counselor-in-Training: July 4–July 17

One-Week Session

Session 4A: August 1–August 7

Campers staying for more than one session must be picked up at the end of the first session and returned to camp the next day at the start of the second session.

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 recommend that you consider purchasing program cancellation insurance. This insurance is available through several companies, such as TravMark (<https://programprotector.mhross.com/consumer/portal/DEER0690CA>) and AM Skier (<https://www.amskier.com/peaceofmind-insurance/>). 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 ([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 (i.e., within the past 10 years)
- 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 are not included on Health History. Print and fax back, or upload online.
<i>Parent Authorization</i>	Print and fax back, or upload online.
<i>CIT Application*</i>	Online form to be completed by camper
<i>CIT-LIT Reference Form*</i>	Print and return to camp office (fax, mail, email).

*If applicable. Special forms for the CIT program should be completed as soon as possible after enrollment.

KEEPING COVID-19 OUT OF CAMP

In 2021, Job One will be protecting all campers and staff from COVID-19, especially those who are not vaccinated. With that, our goal is to provide a fun-filled, wilderness adventure for all campers! Our ability to operate camp successfully this summer rests on the cooperation of every member of our community doing their part to protect themselves and others. *These plans are subject to change.*

Camper Responsibilities

- While not required to attend camp, we encourage campers who are 12 years and older to get fully vaccinated before arriving at camp. Fully vaccinated means that two full weeks have passed after getting the second shot of Pfizer or Moderna, or the single J&J shot. Email a copy of their vaccination card to the camp office at least two days before they go to camp.
- Get tested for COVID. Twice. All campers who are not fully vaccinated must have two negative PCR tests during the week prior to their arrival at camp—the first, seven days out, and the second, three days out. Negative test results are required to attend camp. We have developed an efficient and cost-effective protocol for obtaining test kits, shipping swabs to the lab, and notifying camp of results. Watch your email for the link to purchase the tests.
- If your camper was diagnosed with or is suspected of having had COVID, a test may give a positive result even though they are now healthy. To avoid this situation right before camp, we recommend that you contact their doctor today to have your camper tested now. If the doctor's test is negative, that's good news and they can complete camp's testing protocol. If that early test is positive, they may need to quarantine and we will need a testing waiver from the doctor before they arrive at camp.
- Engage in low-risk activities during the two weeks before camp. Generally, this means not being indoors with people from outside your household and avoiding all large crowds.
- Monitor camper health for 10 days before camp using the DCC Health Monitoring Log (coming soon). Take their temperature. Check for symptoms. Turn the completed log in on arrival.
- If you must travel by airplane or other public transportation before camp, follow the [California Dept of Public Health's Travel Advisory](#).
- If your unvaccinated camper will be carpooling to camp with another family, please check with the camp office to ensure that the campers will be in the same cohort at camp. If not, everyone in the car should wear a mask and keep the windows open for the drive.
- Bring masks to camp for use whenever in a building, in an activity where physical distancing is not possible from campers in another cohort, and in the bus on the way home.

Camp Responsibilities

- Ensure that all staff are fully vaccinated before campers arrive.
- Group campers in cohorts (pods) for meals, sharing tents, and any activities where physical distancing from other cohorts is not possible.
- Monitor campers daily for health and wellness. This may include taking temperatures.
- Move as many indoor activities as possible out-of-doors, including meals, handwashing, First Aid Room, guitar classes, board games, ping-pong, etc.
- Modify camp activities as necessary to allow for social distancing between campers from different cohorts.
- Maintain an isolation area for any campers or staff suspected of having or diagnosed with COVID-19 while at camp. Parents should expect to pick up campers at Loon Lake within 12 hours of being notified of a diagnosis.

PACKING

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*, provided along with this packet.
- Use a backpack (for backpacking) and duffle bag for gear. Two medium duffles are easier to handle than one giant bag. No footlockers, suitcases, or roller bags.
- 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.
- Resources: REI, Sports Basement, Redwood Trading Post, Dick's Sporting Goods, etc.

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. An internal frame pack with hip belt is the most convenient way to carry gear in the wilderness. It should fit your child, and accommodate clothing and food for three days. Tie sleeping bag on top of the pack and ground pad below it.

Fishing Equipment

If your camper plans to fish for trout, we recommend bringing a fishing 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, vitamins—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.

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), 1:00-3:00 PM

We'll email you the specific arrival time for your camper a week or so prior to the start of their session.
Staff meet arriving campers 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 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'll be less than 30 minutes late, staff will wait for you. If you'll 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

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

[Best Western Plus Placerville Inn](#), 530-522-9100

[Davies Family Inn](#), Placerville, 5530-295-1000

[Historic Cary House Hotel](#), Placerville, 530-622-4271

[National 9 Inn](#), Placerville, 5530-622-3884

[American River Inn](#), Georgetown, 530-333-4499

There are many lovely B&Bs in the greater Coloma-Placerville-Apple Hill area as well as larger hotels in Folsom near the Hwy 50 / E. Bidwell Street exit at the eastern end of town.

BUS TRANSPORTATION (rev 06/13/2021)

On the camp bus, campers can begin making new friends before they even arrive at camp. Cost is \$90 each way. If you haven't signed up for the bus and want to do so, complete the Additional Options form in your online account or contact the camp office and let them know the direction (TO and/or FROM camp) and stop (Redwood City, Concord, Sacramento). Please arrive at least 15 minutes early.

The camp bus is air-conditioned, with restrooms. Windows do not open so all campers, staff, and the bus driver will wear masks while on the bus. Staff members supervise bus trips. For the bus TO camp, campers must bring a bag lunch. For the bus FROM camp, Deer Crossing will provide bag lunches to all campers on the bus.

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 20, July 4, July 18, August 1 (first day of each session)

Depart Redwood City	8:30 AM
Depart Concord	10:30 AM
Depart Sacramento	12:30 PM

Coming FROM camp: Saturdays, July 3, July 17, July 31, and August 7 (last day of each session)

Arrive Sacramento	2:30 PM
Arrive Concord	5:00 PM
Arrive Redwood City	6:00 PM

Bus Stop Locations

Sacramento—Capitol Park, 1300 Block of 15th Street

Exit Hwy 80 onto 16th Street and go north toward the State Capitol. Turn left onto L Street and then left onto 15th Street (one way). The bus (All West) will be parked between Capitol Avenue and N Street, on the right side (park side) of the street.

Concord—The Willows Shopping Center, 1975 Diamond Blvd.

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

Redwood City—Shinnyo-En USA, 3910 Bret Harte Drive

Exit Hwy 280 at Farm Hill Blvd. At the stop SIGN, turn left onto Emerald Hill Rd. Take the first left turn onto Bret Harte Dr. At the top of the hill, go through the gate into Shinnyo-En and turn right when the road forks. Take the first left turn into the parking lot. Park near the bus (All West) or as directed by staff. This location is in a residential neighborhood, so please respect the 25 MPH speed limit!

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 final stop, camp staff will escort your camper to our nearby Redwood City office to await your arrival. Call camp's Emergency Number: (650) 465-5087 to arrange pick-up.

VISITING CAMP

To protect the health of everyone at camp, we will not be hosting visitors at camp this summer. We hope you can visit Deer Crossing Camp next year.

MAIL

Campers love mail that is newsy, upbeat, and supportive of what they are doing at camp. 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 your camper is included in mail call:

1. Mail your first letter 2–3 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. Camp staff are trained to help campers through the feelings. You can help in this effort by reading the homesickness article on the camp [website](#) 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

We will contact you 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 or social media. 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 PHOTOS

In early September, we will let you know when this year's camp photos are available on Google Photos and camp's website. While we work hard to capture everyone at camp, we cannot guarantee that there will be photos of your camper.

CAMP'S FEDERAL EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (FEIN)

77-000-7875