

DEER CROSSING



High Sierra Summer Camp
SINCE 1983

2022 CAMP INFORMATION PACKET

Summer is fast approaching and with it comes the fun and adventure of overnight camp! Much of how we operate camp is due to our 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 fond memories.

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; their 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 crafts room, workshop, storage, First Aid Room, and Director's office. Bathrooms have hot showers, flush toilets, and sinks. **Deer Crossing is fully self-contained.** We provide our own electricity and water. Gas generators create electricity, powering refrigerators and lights. Propane tanks provide gas for the kitchen stove and water heater. 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 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, 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 *or* (650) 465-5087 (for summer emergencies only)
mail@deercrossingcamp.com

COVID-19

All campers and staff must be fully vaccinated and boosted, if available, for Covid-19. Pre-camp testing may be required and we will notify you in advance of when and how to get this done.

2022 CAMP SCHEDULE

Two-Week Sessions

Session 1: June 19–July 2
 Session 2: July 3–July 16
 Session 3: July 17–July 30

Leadership Sessions

Leader-in-Training: July 3–July 30

One-Week Session

Session 4A: July 31–August 6

Campers staying for two consecutive sessions must be picked up at the end of the first session and returned to camp the next day. (Participants in the Leader-in-Training program are exempt from this and will remain at camp for the entire four weeks.)

CANCELLATION INSURANCE

Every summer, a broken arm, pneumonia, or something else gets in the way of a camper coming to camp. We strongly recommend that you purchase program cancellation insurance. This insurance is available through several companies, such as TravMark (programprotector.mhross.com/consumer/portal/DEER0690CA), AM Skier (amskier.com/peaceofmind-insurance/), and Campers Insurance (campersinsurance.com). International campers can obtain insurance through TravMark’s Abroad Insurance and other firms. Read the policies carefully!

REQUIRED FORMS & INFORMATION

Check your online account for all forms required for your camper’s participation in camp ([Parent Login](#) on camp website). **Completed forms are due at least two weeks before your camper’s session begins.**

All campers must have:

- Up-to-date vaccinations, including Covid-19 and tetanus
- 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>Covid-19 Vaccine Card</i>	Upload copy
<i>Parent Authorization</i>	Print and fax back or upload online
<i>Liability Waiver</i>	Online form
<i>Raft Release*</i>	Online form
<i>LIT 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 CIT, LIT, and GIT programs should be completed as soon as possible after enrollment.

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. 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: Redwood Trading Post, REI, Sports Basement, Dick's Sporting Goods, etc. Sports Basement and Dick's Sporting Goods may rent sleeping bags and backpacks.

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 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 use. We cannot accommodate medications that require refrigeration. Give all meds to designated staff member at the bus stop, or if parent is driving, at the boat ramp. **Do not pack medications in camper luggage.**

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 begin making new friends before they even arrive at camp. Cost is \$90 each way. If you want your camper to take the bus, contact the camp office and let them know the direction (TO and/or FROM camp) and stop (Redwood City, Concord, Sacramento). Bus reservations are handled on a first come, first served basis. Please arrive at least 15 minutes early.

The camp bus is air-conditioned, with restroom. Windows do not open so all campers, staff, and the bus driver may wear masks while on the bus. Camp staff 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.

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 of your camper's gear and medications. Campers board and depart the bus as directed by staff.

Bus Times

Going to camp: Sundays, June 19, July 3, July 17, July 31 (first day of each session)

Depart Redwood City	8:30 AM
Depart Concord	10:00 AM
Depart Sacramento	12:00 PM

Returning from camp: Saturdays, July 2, July 16, July 30, August 6 (last day of each session)

Arrive Sacramento	2:00 PM
Arrive Concord	4:00 PM
Arrive Redwood City	5:30 PM

Bus Pick-up and Return Points

Redwood City—Shinnyo-En USA, 3910 Bret Harte Dr.

Exit Hwy 280 at Farm Hill Blvd. At the stop SIGN, turn left onto Emerald Hill Rd. Turn left onto Bret Harte Dr. At the top of the hill, go through the gate into Shinnyo-En and turn left when the road forks. Take the first right turn into the parking lot. Park near the bus (All West) or as directed by staff. Do NOT follow your GPS instructions if they route you via Wilmington Way because the back gate will be locked.

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 the REI store.

Sacramento—Capitol Park, 1300 Block of 15th St.

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

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 Redwood City stop, camp staff will escort your camper to our nearby 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 session), 2:00 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 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 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

[Historic Cary House Hotel](#), Placerville, 530-622-4271 [Best Western Plus Placerville Inn](#), 530-522-9100
[National 9 Inn](#), Placerville, 530-622-8334 [Davies Family Inn](#), Placerville, 530-295-1000
[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.

SWIMMING SKILLS

Campers must be able to swim 100 yards (91 meters) freestyle—about four lengths of a standard high school pool—although they won't have to do this at camp. The swim test at camp is about 25 yards in the lake. Dog paddling with their head out of the water does not count as swimming. This requirement helps ensure that your camper will be comfortable swimming in the open water of a Sierra lake and will not require an individual lifeguard. Many camp activities, including the core canoeing class that all first-time campers take, are water-based and being a comfortable swimmer helps ensure a camper's success. If your camper is not a strong swimmer, we recommend you enroll them in swim lessons or a local swim team to give them as much opportunity as possible to improve their skills before camp.

VISITING CAMP

We hope you can visit Deer Crossing Camp and see our wilderness location in person. Camp tours are scheduled only on the first day of each session.

2022 Visitor Days: Sundays, June 19, July 3, July 17, and July 31
Meeting Place: Loon Lake Boat Launch Ramp area
Time: 2:00 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. Wear sunscreen. Bring water and bug repellent.

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. We pick up and take mail to the nearest post office, about 50 miles from camp, at least once a week. 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.** If sent, it will be collected by staff and will not be returned. 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](#) (> 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 their stay; 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.

ILLNESS & 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. If your camper is in the First Aid Room for more than 24 hours, we will contact you to discuss the possibility of returning home if symptoms do not subside within 48 hours. 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 via the camp 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