

January 4, 2019

To Veteran and Prospective Campers and their Families,

This is our 37th year! When we first talked about starting a camp for the students in our schools, Michael Rossman, my friend and founding director, and I never expected to have such an amazing and satisfying run. Though much has grown familiar to us, the experience of working and learning with children in an outdoor setting continues to be exciting and rewarding. We have become a local institution, a well-kept Berkeley "secret". Michael's passion and spirit continue to move us to read the land and look under every rock to discover the wonders and mysteries that surround us. We continue to inspire the next generation of young people to become stewards of the Earth.

This summer, we are very pleased that our experienced staff (David, Ashley, Erika, Yaniv, Andy, Max, Gideon, Dario, Natalie, Ike, and Camille) is once again returning for one or more sessions. In addition, we'll have some junior staff who have risen through the ranks of campers over the past few years. With this amazing staff, Camp Chrysalis maintains its low camper/staff ratio of 4:1 to allow us to give campers the individual attention that they deserve.

Our central emphasis continues to be on natural science, as we explore each environment intimately -- hiking, swimming, meandering, focusing on the uniqueness and beauty of the land, wherever we are. Over the years, other activities -- folk-singing, woodworking, jewelry making, catamaran trips, archery, T-shirt painting, journaling, and backpacking trips -- have come to enrich the camp experience. Most importantly, our sense of group dynamics and the building of community and our skills in helping children grow in cooperation, independence, and responsibility for themselves and to the group have shaped the camp experience. Although we're still learning and growing ourselves, we know that we run a special kind of camp -- one that nurtures the whole child in many different ways.

This summer, our first session returns to Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park, camping beneath giant Redwood trees and exploring the ecology of the Big Sur River. This session is ideal for younger and beginning campers. Our second session is again at MacKerricher State Park, north of Fort Bragg, with tide-pools, sand dunes, a catamaran trip up the Big River, and ample time for leisurely exploration of this stunning part of the California coast. The third is our Sierra session, again at our base camp in the Tahoe National Forest with hiking and swimming expeditions in the area. We expect spectacular wildflowers, beautiful lakes, and warm days.

Lastly, for our older high school campers, are our backpacking sessions with enough days to allow us time to explore a spectacular location still to be selected. This year, because of camper demand, we are very excited to offer two backpacking sessions that vary based upon dates and location. The first session will be to the Mineral King area of Sequoia National Park with high peaks and views, marmots, and cold lakes. The second session is at lower elevation and is a loop around the Tahoe Basin with wildflowers, waterfalls, and several lakes for swimming. We always hope for bear sightings and do carry bear cans on all trips. Both sessions will include an afternoon of solo time, lots of wildflowers, sleeping out under the stars, and games and activities to deepen our friendships and understanding of each other and ourselves. These sessions are for campers with prior backpacking experience.

We've raised our fees about 4% from 2018 to cover increased costs. Nevertheless, Camp Chrysalis's fees continue to be significantly lower than other nature-oriented camps, while providing a unique program for your child's learning and growth. In these stressful economic times, we continue to offer financial assistance to families who need it and a payment plan when requested. Please contact me for more information.

Much of the joy in running this camp is the satisfaction of watching children grow and mature as they explore new situations and challenges and discover much about themselves in the process. We would be delighted to have your children and their friends join us to explore new or familiar environments. However, be sure to return the application form and the deposit promptly. Some sessions filled up in April last year and we had to turn away several old friends as well as other potential new campers. As a small "family-style" camp, our advertising depends mainly on positive word-of-mouth, camp fairs and our web site. Please share our web site (www.campchrysalis.com) with friends, relatives, neighbors, and business associates. And if you know a place to distribute our brochures and need more, please contact me.

Thanks, and have a wonderful spring!

Lee Tempkin, for the staff (lee@campchrysalis.com)