



PREPARING FOR CAMP

During each session, we'll be hiking, scrambling, and exploring at water's-edge. Please send clothing that your child won't need to worry about getting dirty or wet. Label all clothing (and food gear) with a permanent marker. Mornings and evenings can be cold, especially in Mendocino, so warm clothing is necessary — but your child should also have light attire for the hot days. We regret the bulk of the required gear, but all of it is important. It's also not easy to manage. **Please show your child every item that you pack — or better, encourage him or her to pack all the clothing and gear by him/herself, checking them off on the list.**

The sleeping bag **must** have a stuff-sack! The sleeping bag, pad, and tent should be separate from the duffle bag. Every bag should be able to be carried by your child easily; use two if necessary. Please don't attach pillows, sleeping bags, shoes or other loose items to the outsides of packs or duffel bags. It makes loading the bus difficult.

Campers must bring at least two pairs of footgear -- one specifically for wading and another for hiking. All footgear should provide secure footing -- don't send soft "jellies or flip-flops" with smooth, worn soles, as water-shoes that can slip off. Do send water shoes that are closed toed shoes like Keens or an old pair of sneakers which are excellent for tide pooling and wading in rivers. An additional pair of sandals or other casual shoes is fine around camp, but questionable for hiking and disastrous for tide pooling and river exploration. Solid athletic shoes (sneakers) are adequate for hiking. We advise against burdening children with heavy hiking boots. Any boots or shoes should be well fitted with tight laces, and well broken-in (not new!), or your child's feet may blister.

SIERRA FAMILIES ONLY, RE BACKPACKING: a lighter-weight sleeping bag is important, especially for a small camper; and a properly-sized frame backpack is crucial for any. We advise against buying a pack for a growing child unless other trips are planned. If you can't locate one yourself, we can probably fit your child; but please do try friends, classmates/teammates, scout troops, etc. first, as our resources are limited. Contact Lee at (510) 843-6157 or leetempkin@gmail.com, if you need one. **Do not expect us to supply a frame pack unless you have contacted us.**

Campers usually prefer to sleep in tents. Two or three often share a tent and they may choose their own tent-mates. We encourage campers to bring and become comfortable with their family's tent. If your child can bring one, please let us know in advance, on the information form. We provide tents for those who can't. A ground cloth (tarp) is necessary, to protect the tent's bottom. We have plenty. We also encourage campers to sleep outdoors on a tarp and use a tent for their gear and for privacy when changing clothes.

Please tell us about any medications that your child may need to take (including antihistamines) and they should be given to us, unless you trust your child to handle them correctly. We'd also like to know about any problems like bedwetting or other reasons for self-consciousness that your child might have with other children (or with us.) Please be explicit on the information form.

Campers may wade in waters up to waist-deep. But **unless we receive written parental permission, your child will not be allowed in deeper water without a floatation device.** (We have our own swimming test and s/he must also pass our own assessment of ability.) We are especially careful in higher elevations and colder water where campers may not be aware of these factors on their abilities and competence.

We encourage campers to bring and use pocketknives and axes, as these are proper tools here, and we instruct and supervise their use and care. If your child brings one and you have any special concerns about its use, be sure to tell us. We do not allow sheath knives that have an open blade that cannot be closed. Though we supply archery gear for the Sierra session, your child may want to bring his/her own. Campers may bring a guitar or other musical instruments, but camp conditions can be hard on instruments.

Our first session will be will be at ten campsites at the end of a loop at Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park, off Highway 1, just south of Big Sur.

Our second session will be in the group site at MacKerricher State Park, off Highway 1 just north of Fort Bragg.

Our third session will be in the Sierra Buttes area, off Highway 49 on the Gold Lake highway in the Tahoe National Forest, at a primitive site beside Packer Creek.

Campers are encouraged to write home and we supply one stamped postcard. There is no postal delivery at camp. We discourage campers from calling home, save in extreme distress.

In case of emergency, you can reach us, with some delay, through these numbers:

BIG SUR: 805-968-6640 (Los Padres National Forest Ranger Station);

MENDOCINO: 707-937-5804 (Mackerricher State Park Ranger Station.)

SIERRA: 530-289-3700 or 530-862-1212 (Ranger Station, Tahoe National Forest);

Less urgent messages may be left with Nancy Nash at Lee's home: 510-843-6157; we check in every day or two.

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