

Summer Camp 2021 FAQs

We are so excited to welcome our campers home to a tight-knit community of friendship & sisterhood. Experiential learning in the great outdoors along with girl planning and leadership remain at the core of the camp experience. As always, dedicated youth development professionals who are also near-peer role models will guide and provide meaningful mentorship. Our camp communities are ready for summer!

We know that 2021 will look different, and are hoping to answer some of your questions in the following FAQ page. Have additional questions? No worries! Contact information for our camp directors is available at the end of the handout.

What are the 2021 session dates?

All three camps will be running two sessions; there will be a three-week session, followed by a **week's break for deep cleaning, and then a two-week session.**

- Session One: June 13 – July 2 (3 weeks)
- Session Two: July 11 – 23 (2 weeks)

Campers are welcome to attend both sessions, but must depart camp during the week break.

Are the sessions themed?

This year, sessions are focused on classic camp experiences, sisterhood and community, and girls having voice and choice in their experience. At registration, participants will not select a themed session. They will register for the age group at the camp of their choice, and should base their choice on the camp that offers activities they are excited about.

Throughout the session, participants will have opportunities to choose activities within their pod. **These “classic camp” themes are developed to coordinate with the camp culture at each specific site.** They are built to support the longer session lengths as well as each girls’ autonomy while fostering a sense of collaboration and community within their pod.

What activities are offered at each camp?

All of our sites offer core classic camp experiences, including: archery, arts & crafts, teambuilding, swimming, campfires, outdoor cooking, sing-alongs, and games.

In addition to these core activities, each site also has their own special collection of offerings:

Camp Bothin (Fairfax, CA)

Art & Hand Crafts

Drama & Performing Arts

STEM

Maker Space

Nature Exploration

High Ropes

Organic Gardening

Hidden Falls (Soquel, CA)

Hiking & Creek Stomping

Outdoor Cooking

Coastal and Pond Eco

Exploration

Woodworking

Primitive Camping

Tree Climbing

Sugar Pine (Arnold, CA)

Boating

Pottery

Horseback Riding

Creek Stomping

Wilderness Outings

Backcountry Tripping

Counselors-in-Training



Will the CIT Program run this summer?

The CIT program will be offered at Camp Sugar Pine this summer.

- Counselor-in-Training I
 - *Session Two: July 11 – 23*
 - For participants entering grades 9 & up who have not completed any other levels of CIT and who are approved through GSNorCal's CIT application process.
- Counselor-in-Training II
 - *Session One: June 13 – July 2*
 - For participants entering grades 10 & up who have completed CIT I at any GSNorCal Camp (including Tajar's Treehouse) and who are approved through GSNorCal's CITII application process.
- Counselor-in-Training III
 - *Session One: June 13 – July 2*
 - For participants entering grades 11 & up who have completed CIT I & CIT II at any GSNorCal Camp (including Tajar's Treehouse) and who are approved through GSNorCal's CIT III application process.

Will Camp Skylark Ranch open this summer?

As you may know, Camp Skylark Ranch sustained significant damage during the CZU Lightning Fire. The property at Skylark Ranch is currently undergoing a very important phase of restoration, re-growth, and recovery. It will remain closed for this summer to allow the forest to adequately heal before any rebuilding begins.

We invite campers to explore programming at our other sites, particularly at Hidden Falls, where Skylark Camp program favorites (such as tree bed villages and redwood exploration) will find another home during this healing phase.

How many campers are in a pod and how will they be supervised?

There are 16 campers in pods for girls entering 4th and 5th grade and 20 campers in pods for girls entering 6th grade & up.

GSNorCal Camp Staff are youth development professionals over 18 years of age. All have undergone an extensive background screening and attend 14 days of specialized staff training.

Each group will have a dedicated staff team who will spend the session with the camper group, facilitating activities and guiding their camp experience. Supervision ratios are at least:

- Two adults to every sixteen 4th - 5th graders
- Two adults to every twenty every 6th - 12th graders

What policies support Health & Safety during Covid-19?

We are implementing several policies to promote a culture of Health & Safety this summer.

1. Adventure Pods
 - Cohorts reduce risk through lower capacity and decreased group-to-group mixing.
 - Longer sessions increase program opportunity by:



- Extending dates through quarantine recommendations so that favorite program areas can run more safely.
 - Providing opportunity for skill mastery, progression, and extended sisterhood & bonding.
2. Promoting a Culture of Health Awareness
- We will be offering online orientations for campers & families to introduce camp health guidelines.
 - We will be implementing a pre-camp quarantine & requiring a health screening prior to arrival.
 - Campers with family members in essential service positions, or who are still in school, etc, are still eligible to attend even if their household members are unable to quarantine, and should contact us for case-by-case information about how their household can reduce risk during pre-camp.
 - Campers and staff will complete daily self-checks to evaluate how they are feeling **and to ensure camp's overall health consciousness.**
3. Updated COVID Safety Procedures
- We will continue constant monitoring of updated information by the state, the CDC, the American Camp Association, and local health departments by GSNorCal's Covid-19 Response Team and the camp team.
 - Several procedures have been adjusted as necessary:
 - Campers will check in and out – no transportation is planned at this time.
 - Scheduled handwashing is worked into camper days.
 - Masks and social distancing will be implemented as appropriate (when outside of pods or walking in main camp; campers will not need to wear masks while sleeping or within pods).
 - All of camp will be part of the frequent disinfection of living quarters, common areas and high touch surfaces.
 - We are implementing a family communication plan to maintain consistent communication with families before and during your camper's stay.

Will campers need to receive the vaccine or a test before attending camp?

We do not anticipate vaccines will be available to camp's demographic by our session dates, so do not anticipate requiring them at this time.

We are still exploring nasal testing options and may implement them based on American Camp Association or State recommendation, and will keep families informed.

What are the sleeping arrangements?

Campers sleep in typical camp sleeping arrangements with their pod.

- Camp Bothin: Yurts, Cabins, or Dorms
- Camp Hidden Falls: Hammocks, Tree Beds, or Pop-up Tents
- Camp Sugar Pine: Cabins or Covered Wagons

We are taking additional precautions to space beds as we are able, partially with spacing bunk beds and enforcing head-to-foot sleeping.



Will campers be able to receive mail?

Mail is accepted at all of our camps. You can also bring mail to check in and we will distribute on the date requested.

Can my camper attend with a friend?

Participants can input one buddy at registration to be placed in their “cabin”.

- Larger groups of buddies may be able to be placed in a pod on a case-by-case basis.

How will meals be organized? Can you accommodate my dietary restriction?

Dining Halls will be closed in 2021; pods will eat together in their units. Campers will enjoy cooking out and picnic meal arrangements made with the Kitchen Manager.

Dietary restrictions, allergies, and other needs are all accommodated within this system under the supervision of the Kitchen Manager. We believe that a dietary restriction should not prevent a camper from attending and will work with your family to make sure she feels safe eating at camp.

Will laundry service be available?

Laundry service will be provided during the three-week session. Campers should bring two weeks of clothing; we will launder the first week of clothing for campers to wear during the third week.

- Fabric masks will be laundered during all sessions on a rotating basis.

What are the fees?

Fee Aid is open to all campers. Our registration software requires this to be separate from the registration system; you can find the information on camprocks.org.

- 3 Week Session: \$2000 before aid
- 2 Week Session: \$1400 before aid

Are you offering Day Camp?

Day Camp may be available through GSNorCal’s fantastic Volunteer Run Camps depending on local county health guidelines. As the information on each Day Camp becomes available it will be posted here: <https://camp.gsnorcal.org/volunteer-run-camps>

When does registration open?

Registration opens February 1, 2021 at camp.gsnorcal.org

How can I contact the Camp Director with additional questions?

Please reach out by email! We would be happy to answer any questions you may have to ensure you and your camper are ready for a safe and fun camp experience this summer.

- Jill Register, Director of Camps & Adventure
 - jregister@gsnorcal.org
- Arri “Pinto” DeJesus, Camp Bothin
 - adejesus@gsnorcal.org
- Kali “Qwerty” Gabler, Camp Hidden Falls
 - kgabler@gsnorcal.org
- Kimberly “Hollywood” Connon, Camp Sugar Pine
 - kconnon@gsnorcal.org

