

Bar 717 Ranch / Camp Trinity
WHAT PARENTS WANT TO KNOW

The following information has been formulated over many years of camping on the Bar 717 Ranch in hopes that it will clearly define our policy guidelines as well as offer you helpful suggestions as you plan for your child's stay at Camp this summer. We ask that you read it all carefully and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

PARENT-CAMPER COMMUNICATION:

Mail: Campers are expected and encouraged to write home at least once a week. We request that you supply your camper with stamped envelopes and postcards -- one envelope and one postcard for each week at Camp, plus extras for other correspondence. The Bar 717 Ranch has mail service 6 days a week. UPS makes deliveries each weekday and is the least expensive and most reliable way to get necessary packages to your camper. USPS will also deliver packages to camp. Fed Ex Ground and other companies do not make deliveries to camp. To expedite your letters and packages, please use our full mailing address as follows:

Camper's Name
Bar 717 Ranch
Star Route Box 150
Hayfork CA 96041

Email: We encourage you to write letters to your camper. To receive a handwritten letter from home is exciting and many campers eagerly anticipate mail time for this reason. We do recognize that email for some families can be a convenient and expeditious means of communicating with their campers. Over the past few summer we have seen a large increase in the number of families who want to email their campers. This summer we have again signed up with Bunk1.com to allow you to email your camper and to help us manage all incoming "bunk notes" (emails). Please see the Bunk1 flier in this packet to learn more about how you can send emails to your camper while they are at camp. Emailing through Bunk 1's bunk notes will be the only way to send email to campers. Since campers do not have access to computers, they will have to respond to email by postcard, written letter or Bunk Replies (see Bunk1 flier). Please do not send email messages to campers through our business email address.

Photos on the Web: We will be frequently posting photographs of Camp to the web. We hope this will give parents and families a new way to participate and share in their camper's experience of Camp Trinity. Through the magic of digital cameras, and some software from Bunk1.com, the option of viewing current photographs of Camp will be available to parents who choose to sign up. Enclosed in this packet you will find a page that describes how the service works. Please note, if you choose to sign up, **we cannot guarantee that we will post pictures of your camper!** Our goal is to capture images that reflect daily life on the Ranch during the summer, and to share those with you, the extended Camp Trinity community.

Food Packages: We find it very difficult to cope with the many situations that arise from campers receiving food from home or friends. Among the difficulties are the "left out" feelings experienced by campers who do not receive packages, temptations to raid platforms where there is food, the tendency for insects and rodents to be attracted to food stored on platform shelves, and unhealthy

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bargaining for food. To avoid such situations, we ask that you please **do not send food packages to your child at Camp and please tell relatives and family friends of this policy.**

All packages mailed to campers are opened by the camper in the presence of a counselor. **Any food will be turned into the office and not returned to the camper.**

Telephone: Our telephone line is for business use. Since it must be available for this, please call your camper only in cases of emergency. If telephone communication is urgent, the best hours to call are at mealtimes: on weekdays, 8-9 AM, 12:15-1 PM, and 6-7 PM; on Saturdays, 8:30-9:30 AM, 1-2 PM, and 6-7 PM; on Sundays, call at dinnertime only, between 6-7 PM.

Fax: Our fax number is 530-628-9392.

PARENT-CAMP COMMUNICATION:

Parents are encouraged to communicate with the Camp Directors about any concerns they may have relating to their child's Camp experience. Parents will receive a card of introduction from their camper's counselor at the beginning of the session and a personal letter from the counselor after the session.

PARENT NOTIFICATION IN CASE OF ILLNESS OR INJURY:

In the event a camper becomes ill or is injured the Camp Director, Assistant Director, or medical personal will call the camper's parents, guardian, or, in the event they are unavailable, the designated adult at the alternative emergency number. Situations in which parents would be notified are: serious illness, injuries such as cuts requiring stitches, sprains, broken bones, or other care that required a camper be transported away from Camp.

HOMESICKNESS:

It is normal for some campers to miss their family and home environment for the first day or two after they arrive at Camp. Getting involved in Camp activities is the age-old solution to these problems. Many times we are aware of homesickness and often call parents to ask how we can work together in giving the camper guidance during this difficult time. Our usual approach will be, "Do you, as a parent, support us in our efforts to help your camper work out this problem and feel successful in solving it so that the next roadblock will be easier to cope with?" If so, we believe your response to the camper who is homesick might be: "I know this is a miserable feeling, but we would like for you to work it out with any person or persons at Camp with whom you feel comfortable." For the camper whose homesickness is not obvious to us but who writes home about it, we need to count on you to let the Camp Directors know about the situation. Telephone calls from home are very hard on homesick children and for that reason they are discouraged.

We have found that writing frequently and focusing the content of your letters on Camp (e.g., Who is your counselor? What are your friends' names? What animals have you seen? Have you ridden a horse? What was its name? We are so happy that you are having this time at camp.) rather than focusing on home (e.g., The house seems so empty without you. Your kitty misses you. Grandma is here for a visit and wishes she could see you, too.) is most helpful in gearing your child's thoughts away from homesickness. While only a very few parents will be writing to homesick children, focusing letters on your child's Camp experience is a generally good tip for all parents.

MONEY & OTHER VALUABLES IN CAMP:

Please do not allow your camper to bring, radios, tape recorders, CD players, CD's, DVD's or other electronic equipment, personal sports equipment, hair dryers, battery or electronically operated games, fireworks, pocket knives, pets, food, drink, or gum to Camp. Also, please discourage your camper from bringing any valuable jewelry to Camp. There is no need for money at Camp. If a camper brings money or is sent money, it is placed in a safe throughout the session as are any and all of the items mentioned above. The Camp is not responsible for any items that are lost during your camper's stay.

CAMP STORE (The Trading Post) AND POSTAGE:

Items for personal hygiene, i.e. shampoo, toothpaste, etc., are listed on the clothing list and we ask that you **please send your camper fully equipped with these items** and other incidentals such as extra flashlight batteries, shoe laces, film, pencils, writing paper and envelopes, chapstick, hand lotion, postage stamps, etc. An important item here at Camp is sunscreen, which is on the clothing and equipment list. We do have a Camp store called The Trading Post which is stocked with essential items only. These items are available to campers, in cases of necessity. We strongly urge you to make sure your camper comes well-prepared with a good supply of postage stamps or stamped envelopes and all other personal items he or she will be needing, in order to avoid extra charges and billing to you at the close of the Camp session.

FEES:

The Bar 717 Ranch/Camp Trinity provides in its fee such services as in-camp medical and nursing services (including medication as need), laundry, horseback riding, special food for backpack trips, and all supplies for such craft programs as ceramics, jewelry, metal and wood shop, and black & white photography. The only additional cost to you is for transportation to and from camp, and charges, if any, at the Trading Post. Plain white T-shirts for silk-screening or tie-dyeing are sold to campers at cost but you might want to provide your own.

HEALTH & ACCIDENT INSURANCE:

All services provided by the R.N. and M.D. are included in your Camp fee, as well as medication prescribed by them that is stocked in our infirmary. If a camper requires a prescription to be filled at a pharmacy, the parent will be billed for that prescription. All campers are covered by our Camper Health and Accident Insurance which provides a **limited** amount of coverage if a campers needs treatment beyond what can be provided at camp. This coverage is provided to **augment**, not replace, your family medical insurance.

VISITORS:

We welcome parents of campers to visit the Bar 717 Ranch. Visitations are limited to one night. We have **limited** guest accommodations, therefore, advance reservations are necessary. We request a tax-deductible donation to our campership fund in the amount of \$65/single and \$95/double. This donation includes all meals while you are visiting.

Please make arrangements for any visitation through the Camp office prior to arrival. We would be happy to send you a map to Camp upon your request. It is best if you wait to visit until at least a week after the beginning of the session. It seems to work best if you plan to visit around the middle of the session, to allow your child to feel at home here. **We ask that visitors not bring dogs or other pets to the Ranch.**

It is best if all campers arrive together on the opening date of the Camp session, and we encourage you to make use of the scheduled Camp transportation. If you decide to bring your child to Camp, please do not arrive before 1:00 PM. If you want to pick your child up on the last day of Camp, please arrive between 9 AM and 12:00 PM.

PROGRAM:

The daily program is open to choice. We offer skilled leadership in horsemanship, arts and crafts, photography, ceramics, woodshop, metal shop, gardening, archery, camp craft, backpacking, ranch maintenance and improvement projects, nature study, animal husbandry, music, dance, cooking and baking, water activities, and leadership training.

Our string of horses is used every day except Sunday on trails and in the riding rings. Campers participate in grooming, saddling, and in tack and barn maintenance. For safety reasons, campers are grouped according to riding ability. In addition, we require campers to wear helmets when riding. If your child owns a riding helmet, please send it with him/her to camp as this will supplement our supply of riding helmets. Riding, like all other programs, is available to all campers.

We take many overnight and extended backpacking trips to areas around Camp. On these trips, campers are responsible for carrying their own things as well as a portion of the group's food supply. If you have an internal or external frame backpack, please send it to Camp with your child; it will make these outings more enjoyable for all. If your child is interested in an extended backpacking trip, please make sure to look over the **Optional Equipment List For Extended Backpacking Trips**, which is located on the backside of the **Recommended Clothing and Equipment List**.

As part of our Out-Trip program we offer extended backpacking trips to campers in the Trinity Alps Wilderness located approximately 30 miles east of the Bar 717 Ranch. The trips run from 4 to 6 days, covering at least 25 and up to 40 miles round trip. The closest medical assistance is in Weaverville, which is approximately 30 miles away. The trails are moderate to difficult and participants will be expected to hike a minimum of 5 and no more than 10 miles on any given day. Due to the physically challenging nature of the hiking and the added weight of a backpack, campers choosing to go on an Alps Trip should be in good physical condition and feel confident in their level of fitness.

We will be aware of the camper who finds it difficult to put together his or her daily program and will have someone help him or her to schedule activities. Please encourage your camper to tell us when he or she finds it difficult to get involved in a chosen program.

CIGARETTES, ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND WEAPONS:

Cigarettes, alcohol, non-prescribed drugs, and weapons are absolutely out of bounds at Camp for both campers and counselors. Anyone, camper or counselor, who brings in or has in his or her possession cigarettes, alcohol, drugs, or weapons will be asked to leave the Camp immediately. Parents will be billed for added transportation costs that such action necessitates. As stated in our Camp contract, **NO FEE REFUND WILL BE MADE** if a camper is asked to leave for violation of these regulations. Your camper's signature on the camper contract tells us that he or she has agreed to respect the Camp rules.

SHOWERS:

If your child is not accustomed to taking showers, please teach him or her to wash his or her body and hair in a shower in these next few weeks before Camp. Each living area has its own shower room. Our only bathtub is in our medical facility and is not available for everyday use. Sandals or thongs may be worn to and from showers, but at all other times closed shoes must be worn for safety reasons.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information. Your understanding and support of our policies is greatly appreciated. If you have further questions, please contact us at the ranch office.