

Family Camp Information Sheet 2009

Welcome to Family Camp on the Bar 717 Ranch. We are so glad that you will be joining us this summer! The following information has been put together in hopes that it will clearly define the Camp's policies as well as offer you some helpful guidelines that will make your week here great. We ask that you read it all carefully and **make sure** that you pass this information on to any children that you are bringing with you. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to us.

Living Arrangements

The majority of our living arrangements are 'platforms'—envision a cabin with one wall open to views of the pasture, forest, or pond. Platforms are open-air structures that offer protection from the elements, flush toilets, and a sink. Most platforms can sleep between 7-12 people, but we will usually assign just one family per platform, unless you request otherwise. Shower houses are a short walk from each platform. We also have limited number of indoor accommodations. These rooms have always seemed to work best for those families with very young children. Please be aware that the indoor accommodations are closer to Main Camp and may be more exposed to late night noise, Campfires, and singing.

Bells

At Camp bells are used to gather people together or to let people know that an activity is beginning. Bells are most frequently used for announcing meal times and are as follow:

Breakfast – There are three bells.

1. a wake up bell that is rung one half hour before breakfast
2. a ten-minute bell that is rung ten minutes before the meal. Please start heading to the eating platform at the ten-minute bell.
3. A breakfast bell that indicates that the meal is being served.

Lunch – There are two bells.

1. a ten-minute bell
2. a lunch bell

Dinner – There are two bells.

1. a ten-minute bell
2. a dinner bell

Family Style Meals

Meals at Camp Trinity are served family style. They are a time for good conversation, good food, and for getting acquainted with other families. We begin each meal by standing at the tables, holding hands, and having a moment of silence. The "moment" lasts until Kent or Laura sits down. We do recognize that this can be difficult to accomplish with small children in Camp, but we try our best.

Breakfast and lunch are served in courses. Please allow everyone at the table to finish their first course before you clear and move on to your second course. At lunch time there is a salad bar. We ask that you wait until everyone has had soup, the soup bowls and spoons are cleared and the second course is at the table, before you visit the salad bar. Dinner is always one course, but there is a dessert at dinnertime. Please be aware that you may need to save a utensil for your dessert.

After breakfast and dinner, we gather under the apple trees for announcements. This is an important time where activities for the day or evening are discussed. We try to do this as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Child Care

We offer childcare for children between the ages of 0-7 years old. Childcare is offered after breakfast and dinner as well as during the morning program time. We recognize that childcare may need to be altered depending on the number and ages of children that come to Family Camp. We can discuss this further once you are here.

Some of our staff may be available to provide childcare outside these designated times. Their availability and compensation should be negotiated directly with them. We are happy to connect you with those of our staff who we know would like to have extra work during their off time.

Medical Care.

We do not provide medical personnel during Family Camp. Medical and emergency care is available through local emergency response groups by dialing 911. Basic first aid supplies are available from the main office and basic first aid kits are available for trips out of Camp.

All Campers are covered by our Camper Health and Accident Insurance, which provides a **limited** amount of coverage if a Camper needs treatment beyond what can be provided at Camp. This coverage is provided to **augment**, not replace, your family medical insurance. Beyond the coverage provided by our Camper Health and Accident Insurance, the Bar 717 Ranch does not provide health insurance for Family Campers.

Swimming

The Hayfork of the South Fork of the Trinity runs directly through our property and has many great pools for swimming. The main swimming hole is accessible on foot or by car. There is **NO LIFEGUARD** on duty at any of the swimming areas. Please do not allow children of any age to swim unsupervised. We do not allow **DIVING** at the river. This includes both from the jumping board as well as from rocks. Hayfork Creek is a free-flowing river so winter floods alter the characteristics of each swimming hole each year. Be aware of the current, rocks, cold water, and all other river hazards.

Gates

There are a lot of gates on the ranch that are used to either keep things in our out. It is very important that gates are kept closed. As a general rule, gates should be left how you found them. The one exception is the garden gates. Gates leading into or out of either the Upper or the Lower Garden should always be closed.

Animals

There are many different kinds of animals on the Ranch, both at the Small Animals Barn and the Horse Barn. You may visit the Small Animals Barn whenever you like, we ask that children always have an adult with them. We also ask that children be seated when holding the animals.

No one (adult or child) should be in the Horse Barn unless there is a horse counselor present.

While walking around the Ranch, or too and from living areas, you will encounter our animals (usually horses and cows) on pastures or turned out on the range. All of them are familiar with people and are neither aggressive nor wild. There are, however, several common sense precautions that everyone should take. **It is very important to communicate this information to your children and to all people attending Family Camp with you.** First, never feed the livestock unless there is a fence between you and the animal. Their natural behavior is to push or shove their peers to get at the best things to eat and there is the potential you could get bumped inadvertently. Second, younger animals (foals and calves) have had less time to learn 'their manners'. Yes, we do spend quite a bit of time teaching our horses and milk cows what is acceptable behavior, and what is not. Be aware that the younger animals may exhibit behavior that appears aggressive (rearing, nipping, etc.) but is really just their natural playfulness, with you being a stand in for a playmate of their own species (and size!). Again, we request that you not approach these animals while they are out on the field, or out on the range. All the animals are fed in the morning before breakfast, and in the evening before dinner. If you would like to help our staff during chores, please do. This is a great time for you and your children to visit (and make friends with) all the animals.

Parking and driving

There is limited parking in the main Ranch parking lot. If you are not going to be using your car during your time here, we ask that you move your car to our staff parking lot, located next to the Big Foot Area guesthouse. Ask us to show you how to get there.

Some of the living areas are easily accessed by car. If the road runs close to your platform, then please feel free to drive your vehicle into the area when you arrive to facilitate unloading and moving in. **It is very important to stay on the road!** The septic systems in the living areas will not support the weight of your car and they are indistinguishable from the surrounding terrain. After you have moved in, please park your car in one of the designated parking lots. You, and everyone else here at Family Camp, have come all this way to these beautiful mountains and the dust, noise, and sight of a dozen cars in the living areas detracts from everyone's experience of the Ranch.

You are welcome to drive your vehicle on the Ranch, but please respect a few requests. First, drive S-L-O-W-L-Y; there are many animals and children on the Ranch. Second, ALWAYS pull over, stop and shut off the motor when you encounter a trail ride until the ride has passed and is out of sight. Unexpected or unfamiliar movement or noise can startle a horse. Third, when driving down to the river please use the "Old Logging Road" (directions when you arrive) to skirt around the living areas. If you choose to drive down to the river, please PARK AT THE HOMESTEAD (large grassy meadow, garden on your left) and walk the rest of the way. OR, cross Hayfork Creek and park in the open area to the RIGHT as you start up the hill. Do not park off to the side of the road near the river; it is very easy to get yourself stuck in the sandy soil!

The Main Road that runs through Camp is the main County Road linking the town of Hyampom to Hayfork and beyond. Although we are fortunate not to have a great deal of traffic, some people commute back and forth on this road everyday. In addition, there are occasionally logging and Forest Service trucks on the road. Most people know that we have a summer Camp here and drive slowly as they pass. However, you should use the same caution when crossing the County Road as you would any road or street. Please pass this safety information on to your children as well.

Laundry

If you need to do laundry while you are here, there is a machine available for you to use. It is located behind Gates Gables Kitchen. There are lines to hang your cloths on to dry. Please be environmentally conscious and do not use the dryer until the lines are full

Phones, Internet and Mail

Cell phones service is not available at the Ranch. There is a payphone located in the "Trading Post" alongside the apple orchard, which you are welcome to use to make your calls. The payphone only accepts calling cards for long distance calls. Local calls can be made using coins. If for some reason you need to use our office phone or fax, please talk to Kent, Gretchen or Laura and we will be happy to assist you.

Here at the Ranch we connect to the Internet via satellite. Our ISP limits the bandwidth available to us. If we exceed our allotted bandwidth, our service will be shut down for 24 hours. We rely on the internet for much of our business. Downloading anything will shut down our service, and thus our ability to run our business. Computers in the Library are for Staff use only. The Library is off limits to children unless accompanied by a parent, or a member of our Staff. If you need access to the Internet, please talk to Kent, Gretchen or Laura and, again, we will be happy to assist you..

You can drop any outgoing mail in "Becky and Jed's" mailbag in front of the Trading Post. The mail is put out Monday through Saturday around 10am.

Refrigerator Use

We ask that you do not store food on your platform because there is a tendency for insects and rodents to be attracted to it. If you are staying indoors, you may store food in your room, but remember to make sure the door are always left closed.

There are several refrigerators around the Ranch that are available for you to use. There is one in Gates Gables kitchen, one in the Infirmary, and one in the Press Shack. If there does not seem to be enough room, please talk to Marlys in the kitchen.

Bikes

We encourage those of you who like to ride mountain bikes to bring them with you to Camp. We have miles of trails and back wood roads that provide all types of riding levels. Please bring helmets and always wear them while you are biking. We do ask that there is no biking in the main Camp area.

Bridges

There are two suspension bridges on the Ranch, providing winter access to more remote parts of our property. The bridge over Hayfork Creek is CLOSED to summer visitors. Please use the car bridge. The bridge over Corral Creek may be used with caution.

Water

We are fortunate to obtain all of our water from the pristine Grassy Flats Creek watershed. We have a treatment system for all domestic water. Irrigation water is not treated. The water in the sinks, showers and drinking fountains is domestic water. Please DO NOT drink from the hoses or hose bibs. Also, please remember to conserve water as we rely on our water supply not only to drink, cook and clean but also to keep all of our pastures green and our animals healthy throughout the often-dry summer!

Trash

We hope you will notice that we try to keep our grounds free of trash and that you will do the same while you are here. We have a fairly complex trash system here, partly due to concern and respect for the environment, and partly to the fact that Trinity County does not have a landfill. We truck all of our garbage to the dump. The garbage then travels from our local dump to Weaverville and then from there to Anderson. Quite a ways to truck garbage! We throw ONLY NON BURNABLE, NON RECYCLEABLE materials into the trash. All burnable trash is burnt in our burn pit, and clearly marked recycling containers are located next to the trash shed. You will find 2 boxes on each Platform, one marked BURN and one marked NON-BURN. Please think about what you are throwing away and how you can best dispose of it. Food can also be recycled! All scraps, leftovers or old food goes to our pigs – they LOVE it. Everything else goes into the compost. If you have food or scraps to throw away, ask the kitchen and they will show you how and where to recycle it.

What is recyclable?

Aluminum cans

All other tin and metal

Plastic containers (Redemption #2 PFTE and Non-Redemption)

Glass (Redemption and Non-Redemption – sorted by color: clear and green/brown)

Catalogs and Magazines (in the office)

Cardboard (in front of green recycling bins)

Flashlight batteries (in the office)

Alcohol and Drugs

Alcohol is permitted at Family Camp. Please use it in an appropriate manner.

The use or possession of non-prescription drugs is prohibited at Family Camp under all circumstances.

Fires and Smoking

Smoking is not allowed on the Ranch, except in the designated smoking area, which is located in the corner of Gates Gables lawn, between the Library and the Gates Gables guest rooms. We ask that you limit your smoking to this area only. Please never smoke in the living areas or in the forest!

Campfires are permitted on our property in established pits or fireplaces ONLY.

In case of a fire there are fire extinguishers strategically located in all areas of the Ranch. Please take a moment to locate the extinguisher nearest your living area. In the event of a fire, an alarm will sound. If you hear the fire alarm and are above the County Road, gather immediately in the upper pasture (Friendship Hill) and wait for further instructions from Camp administration. If you are below the County Road, gather on Barn Hill and await instructions. If you are out of Main Camp, move yourself to safety and notify someone as soon as possible. All emergency services are available by dialing 911.

Hazards

There are both natural and manmade hazards to be aware of here on the Ranch. Children running down hills and on trails and watching for cars on the roads are two things to be cautious about. We ask that everyone refrain from running at Camp Trinity. The terrain at Camp is uneven and hilly and there is potential to trip or fall. We suggest that you and your children wear close-toed shoes on the Ranch. A stubbed toe or bee sting on the foot can make your time here less enjoyable. Be aware of yourself and others while in the river. It is also important to be aware of: things that bite: snakes, bees, scorpions, ticks. The hazards you and your family will most likely encounter are the sun, the heat, and poison oak. Please use your common sense and take care of yourself while out and about. **In case of emergency, call 911.**

Pets

There are no personal pets allowed at the Ranch.

We look forward to camping with you and hope you have a wonderful, relaxing time.