



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

YMCA CAMP JONES GULCH

2026 WELCOME PACKAGE





WELCOME

TO YMCA CAMP JONES GULCH

We're looking forward to a great summer, and are so happy your child will be joining us. At YMCA Camp Jones Gulch, we focus on safety, character development, and fun, which makes us a great place for your child to learn and grow.

We follow strict guidelines established by the ACA (American Camp Association) and the YMCA to ensure your child will have a safe, fun, and meaningful camp experience. We teach caring, honesty, responsibility and respect to all our campers.

Thank you for choosing us for your child's summer experience.

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ABOUT CAMP

At YMCA Camp Jones Gulch, campers discover the natural world. It is much more than simply canoeing, swimming, campfires with friends, archery, and dabbling with the arts. Campers and counselors work together, learn new skills and build an honest, caring, responsible and respectful community. At the heart of the program, we encourage campers to challenge themselves to meet personal goals, gain confidence, and become part of team.

TO GET THE MOST OUT OF CAMP:

- Live and play respectfully with similarly aged campers.
- Be responsible for personal care and individual health and safety.
- Follow a varied activity schedule and manage free time.
- Enjoy overnight excursions that require challenging hikes.
- Understand and respond to group instruction for the activities.
- Join in group activities that build community, such as singing, campfires, and familystyle meals in the dining hall.
- Contribute positively to the overall spirit of the camp community.

YMCA Camp Jones Gulch endeavors to arrange reasonable accommodations to make camp accessible while preserving the rustic facilities, natural surroundings and quality of the camping experience for all.

A SHORT HISTORY OF YMCA CAMP JONES GULCH

The present site of YMCA Camp Jones Gulch was once part of Rancho San Gregorio, a stretch of land granted to Mr. Juan Alvarado by the Mexican Government. After passing through a few proprietors, the land was eventually sold to Jones & Franklin, a smalling milling operation in 1857. David Jones, of Jones & Franklin and for whom our camp is named, constructed a saw mill on this site, which is now our current Dining Hall.

In the 1934, the then owner of the property, Mrs. S. M. Black was looking to sell her property to a non-profit to create a camp for boys and girls. Richard Perkins, the General Secretary for the YMCA of San Francisco at that time, negotiated a deal with Mrs. Black and was able to acquire 927 acres of redwood forest and meadows.

Over the years, the YMCA of Greater San Francisco has run a variety of camps and has expanded upon the facilities and programs to what you see today.



OUR MISSION

To build healthy, sustainable, and equitable communities for all generations. At the YMCA of Greater San Francisco, we are more than a place. We are a movement deeply rooted in fostering positive social change guided by our communities. Every step we take is informed by the people we serve who call San Francisco, Marin, and San Mateo counties their home, and we work side by side with individuals and families to help them become the very best version of themselves. Whether you're seeking to improve your health and well-being, support your family, or find community and a sense of belonging, the Y is here for everyone. Together, we build stronger, more resilient communities where all can thrive.

OUR VISION

Using the vibrant beauty of our own 927-acre property as well as the breadth of dramatic natural areas throughout California, YMCA Camp Jones Gulch will ensure that kids of all ages, and families of all configurations, experience the outdoors. Camp provides pathways for discovery, inquiry, inspiration, rambunctious exploration, and the art of making friends.

We welcome all. We work to ensure that everyone, regardless of ability, age, cultural background, ethnicity, faith, gender, ideology, income, national origin, race, or sexual orientation has the opportunity to reach their fullest potential.

OUR STAFF

Our greatest resource is our staff, which is comprised of young adults who are carefully screened for their desire and ability to work with children. They complete an intense training program, to foster a safe and fun environment for our campers. Our leadership team all have extensive experience in youth development and leadership. Many of our staff were once campers here themselves. We attract staff from across the U.S and around the world. Staff members come from a variety of life experiences and backgrounds. We put a great deal of effort into recruiting the finest young people to lead and inspire our campers.



PROGRAM OPTIONS

This summer, YMCA Camp Jones Gulch is offering the following camp options.

TRADITIONAL CAMP: Every session for campers ages 8 -14

Divided into 3 age groups, our Traditional Camp is the classic Camp Jones Gulch Experience. Campers will travel within their cabin groups to different activities throughout the day. Each age group has slightly different programming. Every group does at least: one ropes element, archery, arts & crafts, canoeing, two swim sessions, outdoor cooking, and an exploration in the redwood forest!

- **KESTRELS: 8 - 9 Years Old**
Kestrels are our youngest week-long campers! They will try their hands at the climbing tower, make friends and learn about teamwork, and have their own skits & s'mores night. **An all-gender cabin option for Kestrel campers will be available Session 3.**
- **OSPREYS: 10 -11 Years Old**
Osprey campers thrive on adventure and will try their hands at more of what makes camp a special place. Ospreys are our youngest who will go on the Canopy Ropes Course and sleep under the stars! **An all-gender cabin option for Osprey campers will be available Session 5.**
- **CONDORS: 12 -14 Years Old**
Condors are our oldest traditional campers. Condor campers will further develop teamwork and communication skills, deepening their friendships and trying new things – including our Challenge Course and a tide-pooling field trip to a local beach. **An all-gender cabin option for Condor campers will be available.**

MINI CAMP: For campers age 6-8

Our 3-day Mini-Camp is available for campers age 6-8 who would like to try an overnight experience, but may not yet be ready to commit to an entire week of camp. Our mini-campers will make new friends, explore the outdoors, and try their hands at a selection of camp activities in an action-packed 3 days! They will have arts & crafts, visit the garden, go to the pool, go to an all-camp campfire, and more.

LEADERS-IN-TRAINING (LITS): For campers ages 14-15

Leaders-In-Training is the first year of our Teen Leadership Camp. LITs participate in many of the classic camp activities, alongside their own special programming centered around developing leadership skills. LITs will spend time working together on our low and high ropes courses, complete a legacy project for the benefit of the camp community, and cook over the campfire on their campout experience.

COUNSELORS-IN-TRAINING (CITS): For campers age 16

Counselors-In-Training is our capstone teen leadership experience. CITs will stay at camp for two weeks, learning and developing as leaders and then applying those new skills with a cabin of younger campers. Their first week of program includes both learning opportunities and a selection of camp activities, including spending time on the Challenge Course. CITs will stay over between traditional camp sessions and experience the space for the night as the only YMCA campers. In their second week, CITs will be assigned a cabin of younger campers to shadow and be role models for!

WILDERNESS CAMP: For campers ages 11-14

New for Summer 2026, our 3-Day Wilderness Camp is an adventure for campers looking to try something different and embrace a true nature experience. Campers will share tents down at the Lower Outpost, our group campsite complete with running water and an unbeatable deep-in-the-redwoods feel. Campers will learn and grow through developing wilderness skills, including building and cooking over a fire, hiking on our local trail system, and exploring the wonders of nature.

PLEASE SEE OUR CAMP CALENDAR FOR AVAILABLE CAMP SESSIONS BY AGE GROUP

CAMP CALENDAR

		JUNE			JULY			AUGUST	
AGE	CAMP GROUP	EARLY	SESSION 1	SESSION 2	SESSION 3	SESSION 4	SESSION 5	SESSION 6	SESSION 7
6-8	Mini - 2A			06/21-06/23					
	Mini - 2B			06/24-06/26					
	Mini - 6A							07/26-07/28	
	Mini - 6B							07/29-07/31	
8-9	Kestrels		06/14-06/19	06/21-06/26	06/28-07/03*	07/05-07/10	07/19-07/24	07/26-07/31	08/02-08/07
					07/03-07/05		07/24-07/26		
10-11	Ospreys		06/14-06/19	06/21-06/26	06/28-07/03	07/05-07/10	07/19-07/24**	07/26-07/31	08/02-08/07
					07/03-07/05		07/24-07/26		
11-14	Wilderness	06/07-06/09							
12-14	Condors		06/14-06/19	06/21-06/26	06/28-07/03	07/05-07/10	07/19-07/24	07/26-07/31	08/02-08/07***
					07/03-07/05		07/24-07/26		
14-15	LITs		06/14-06/19	06/21-06/26	06/28-07/03	07/05-07/10	07/19-07/24	07/26-07/31	08/02-08/07
					06/28-07/10				
16	CITs - A								
	CITs - B						07/19-07/31		

*KESTRELS: An all gender cabin is available for session 3 (06/28-07/03).

**OSPREYS: An all gender cabin is available for session 5 (07/19-07/24).

***CONDORS: An all gender cabin is available for session 7 (08/02-08/07).

GETTING TO CAMP

ADDRESS: 11000 Pescadero Road, La Honda, CA 94020

PHONE: (650) 747-1200

GPS DIRECTIONS:

Many GPS directions end before you arrive at camp — continue on Pescadero Creek Road and turn left onto Jones Gulch Road at the sign.

FROM I-280:

- Take CA 84/Woodside exit and continue on CA 84/Woodside Road through the town of La Honda (you'll see Alice's Restaurant on the right), for approximately 8 miles
- One mile past the town of La Honda, turn left onto Pescadero Road and follow the sharp bend to the right, staying on Pescadero Road
- Follow the signs to YMCA Camp Jones Gulch, approximately 4 miles - to Jones Gulch Road
- Turn left onto Jones Gulch Road and follow to the Administration Building

FROM CA 1/CABRILLO HWY:

- Take Pescadero Creek Road east at Pescadero State Beach
- Follow Pescadero Creek Road through the towns of Pescadero and Loma Mar. After approximately 11 miles; turn right onto Jones Gulch Road
- Follow Jones Gulch Road to the Administration Building

CHECK-IN

Upon arriving at camp, you will be greeted by YMCA staff to guide you through the process. After checking in, families will walk their campers to their cabins.

CHECK-IN TIMES (Siblings may arrive together)

SUNDAY-FRIDAY SESSIONS		MINI CAMP SESSIONS	
GROUP	TIME	GROUP	TIME
Kestrels	1:00-1:45 PM	Starting on Sunday	1:00-1:45 PM
Osprey	1:30-2:30 PM	Starting on Wednesday	10:00-11:00 AM
Condor	2:15-3:00 PM		
Leaders In Training	2:15-3:00 PM		
Counselors In Training	2:15-3:00 PM		

WHAT TO BRING TO CHECK-IN:

- Medication, in the original container marked with camper's name and dosage

PICK-UP

Pickup times vary depending on how long your camper's session is. Please coordinate with the times below. Staff will direct you to check-in before heading to the cabin to get your ID verified. Upon verification, you will receive a wristband to show you are an authorized pick-up.

Camp staff will direct you to where to park and pick up your camper. After checking your camper out, getting a wristband, and collecting any medications, you may then proceed to their cabin to pick them up. We will also have t-shirt and sweatshirt sales at check-out.

PICK-UP TIMES (Siblings can be picked up together)

SUNDAY-FRIDAY SESSIONS		MINI CAMP SESSIONS	
GROUP	TIME	GROUP	TIME
Kestrels	10:30-11:00 AM	Pick up on Tuesday	1:00-1:45 PM
Osprey	10:45-11:30 AM	Pick up on Friday	10:30-11:00 AM
Condor	11:00-11:45 AM		
Leaders In Training	11:00-11:45 AM		
Counselors In Training	11:00-11:45 AM		

WHAT TO BRING TO PICKUP:

- Photo ID is required to pick up your camper





YMCA CAMP JONES GULCH

Summer Camp Packing List (Recommended)

Please make sure to label all items with your camper's name

CLOTHING		
<input type="checkbox"/> Long pants	<input type="checkbox"/> Shorts	<input type="checkbox"/> T-shirts
<input type="checkbox"/> Long sleeved shirts	<input type="checkbox"/> Socks & underwear	<input type="checkbox"/> Pajamas
<input type="checkbox"/> Warm jacket, sweater or sweatshirt	<input type="checkbox"/> Sun hat	<input type="checkbox"/> Swimsuit
<input type="checkbox"/> Shower/pool shoes	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed toed shoes for hiking and programs	

TOILETRIES		
<input type="checkbox"/> Towel/pool towel	<input type="checkbox"/> Shampoo, conditioner, comb/brush	<input type="checkbox"/> Bug spray
<input type="checkbox"/> Soap	<input type="checkbox"/> Chapstick	<input type="checkbox"/> Medication (if applicable)
<input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush, toothpaste	<input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen	

BEDDING (TWIN BEDS)	OPTIONAL	OTHER
<input type="checkbox"/> Twin sheet (optional)	<input type="checkbox"/> Camera	<input type="checkbox"/> Water bottle
<input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping bag	<input type="checkbox"/> Swim Goggles	<input type="checkbox"/> Dry Pack
<input type="checkbox"/> Pillow/pillowcase	<input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses	<input type="checkbox"/> Comfort Item

WHAT NOT TO BRING:

- Electronic devices (phone, tablet, laptop, e-reader etc)
- Food and snacks
- Money

HEALTH CARE AT CAMP

MEDICATION

If your child takes medication, consult your doctor before camp. All medications must be checked in at registration. Any prescription medication that we receive needs to be in the **original container** with the child's name and dosage information. Our Health Supervisor is required to follow the written directions on the prescription, if a dosage has changed from the prescription label, please have your doctor update before coming to camp. Medications that are prescribed to parents or siblings cannot be administered to campers. **Please do not pack any medications, including non-prescription or vitamins, in your child's luggage.** It is helpful to place the medications in a Ziploc bag with the child's name clearly labeled. The camp health center will have a variety of over-the-counter medications for simple ailments. Medications are usually dispensed at mealtimes; if your child needs to have medication at another time, please let the Medic know when you check in.

HEALTH CARE & INSURANCE

It is the responsibility of every camper's parent or guardian to provide for the camper's health and accident coverage while participating at YMCA Camp Jones Gulch. The health and safety of your child is our primary concern. We have a qualified camp Health Supervisor on duty 24 hours a day. Local medical services are available in Half Moon Bay, which is located a short drive away. We have access to 911 emergency services, who respond quickly to a call. Our staff members are all certified in first aid and CPR.

We conduct brief health screenings with all campers on opening day. Please, if your child is ill, do not send them to camp. We will work with you to place your child in a later session or give a refund if a doctor's note is provided. If your child has any health concerns that may affect their stay at camp that were not indicated on the Health History and Examination Form, please let us know in writing prior to arrival at camp. Campers with a temperature of over 100 degrees will NOT be admitted into camp.

In case of illness while at camp, campers will rest in the Health Center for a brief period. Our practice is to call you if a camper is out of program for more than half a day. We will also call you to report any accidents more severe than a simple scratch or bruise. However, if you cannot be reached, we will try to get in touch with the listed emergency contact. Please be sure to **provide us with complete emergency contact information,** especially if you are traveling. In the event that no one can be reached, we have your written authorization for emergency medical care on the Health History and Examination Form.

Emergency services can be available within 10 minutes of calling 911. Any off-site trips will have the names, phone numbers and directions to the nearest hospitals for all points of the trip. When an injury or illness occurs that we believe is in need of medical attention beyond what our medic can provide, but is not an emergency, we will contact you or an emergency contact to arrange for a pick-up to seek further medical attention. **Camp staff are not able to drive your child to the doctor.** In the event of a medical emergency, we will call 911. Again, we will contact you or your emergency contact if emergency services are needed.

SPECIAL MEDICAL NEEDS

YMCA Camp Jones Gulch strives to be inclusive with all youth, however we also want to be realistic in terms of what we can offer based on our staff's medical knowledge. If your camper has any special medical needs, please contact the Director as soon as possible so that, together, we can determine if our camp can provide a successful, positive experience for your camper.

IMMUNIZATIONS

For the safety of our staff and campers, we will not be providing any exemptions to immunizations based on personal or religious beliefs.

WAIVERS AND FORMS

Campers with medication must come to camp with an additional Camper Health Information form that includes a section for dosage information and physician approval. These include a photo waiver and acknowledgment of our concussion protocol, as well as our general liability waivers. All of our waivers are completed online through the registration portal. If for any reason your camper is missing a waiver, we will let you know and have you fill it out.

PAYMENTS, CANCELLATIONS, AND REFUNDS

- All deposits are non-refundable and non-transferable.
- In cases of homesickness, dismissal or voluntary withdrawal, there is no refund of fees.
- All cancellations or changes to registration must be submitted in writing.
- Cancellations up to two weeks before the camp session will be eligible for a full refund, less the deposit.
- Any cancellation 2 weeks before the session starts, but more than 1 week prior to the start of the session will result in a refund of 50% of the camp fees, less the deposit.
- Cancellations less than 1 week prior will result in a refund of 25% of fees, less the deposit.
- If a camper does not show for the session without notice, there will be no refund issued.
- A physician's authorized written medical excuse is required to be considered for a full refund.
- Requests for refunds with special circumstances must be submitted in writing.

FINANCIAL AID

Financial Aid is available for families who qualify. We understand that camp experiences can be a large investment. If the price of camp is a hardship for your family, please apply for Financial Aid.

To apply for Financial Aid, please fill out the [form here](#) and send to branchFA@ymcasf.org along with two types of income verification.

STAY CONNECTED TO CAMP

Interested in visiting YMCA Camp Jones Gulch with the entire family before summer camp starts?

We offer several Family Camps throughout the year, with both 2 and 3 night options, depending on surrounding holidays. If you've been waiting for a Camp Jones Gulch experience for the whole family, keep an eye out and your calendar open! More program and registration information, including program dates is on our website at ymcasf.org/program/family-camping-camp-jones-gulch.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW DO I CONTACT MY CHILD WHILE THEY ARE AT CAMP?

Sending a letter is a perfect way to tell your camper that you miss and love them. We recommend sending letters a few days prior to the session to make sure they are received. Please do not send letters by fax. All mail will be delivered at dinner. Please mail your letters to:

CAMPER'S NAME
SESSION # AND AGE GROUP (KESTREL/OSPREY/CONDOR, ETC.)
YMCA Camp Jones Gulch
11000 Pescadero Creek Road
La Honda CA, 94020

CAN I SEND A CARE PACKAGE?

You can absolutely send your child a small care package from home, using the address above. Please do not order things directly from Amazon to be delivered to camp without first consulting the Camp Office. Please do not send food items – they will be confiscated to be returned at check-out.

MY CAMPER HAS A DIETARY RESTRICTION, HOW IS THAT HANDLED AT CAMP?

Our dining hall serves youth all year round and are great at supporting common dietary needs! As long as your camper's dietary restriction is listed on their registration – we are ready to accommodate vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free diets. We do not serve nuts while camp is in session. Our kitchen team is great about answering questions about other allergens, and making them easy to avoid, and your child's counselor will help them ask if the contents of a meal are not clear.

Some families, especially those of youth with celiac, like to send additional food to help support their campers, like desserts or snacks, that can be accessed during meals by asking one of the kitchen staff.

If your camper has more complex dietary needs, please reach out to our team and we can support you and put you in contact with the dining hall team, if needed.

DOES CAMP JONES GULCH HAVE A CAMP STORE?

We do not have a traditional camp store, but we will have t-shirts and hoodies available for purchase at check-out, as well as an add-on during registration. **All campers get a free t-shirt during check-in.**

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY CHILD BECOMES HOMESICK?

Our staff are trained on handling homesickness, and most cases can be resolved with support within the cabin. If homesickness manifests as feeling sick, like a stomach ache, the camp medic will also assist. If it continues, the lead staff for your camper's age group may call to let you know and ask for advice on how to best soothe your camper. We do not generally allow campers to call home, as that tends to make homesickness even worse, or cause it to spread to other campers in the cabin.

MY CHILD HAS A FRIEND WHO IS ALSO ATTENDING CAMP – WILL THEY BE IN THE SAME CABIN?

We allow for up to 4 cabinmate requests per camper and will do our best to accommodate them. Cabinmates must be within two years of age of each other and be registered for the same course option. If campers in the group fall under different age categories, **all campers must register for the younger program.** If campers within the group have different gender identities, they will need to register for the All Gender cabin to be together.

HOW DOES CAMP WORK IF MY CHILD IS TRANSGENDER?

YMCA Camp Jones Gulch is an inclusive, gender-affirming space. We want all campers to feel and be safe and comfortable during their time at camp. Campers should register for the cabin most in-line with their gender identity, and non-binary or genderfluid campers should register for the cabin they will feel most comfortable in. Each traditional camp age group has a week where an all-gender cabin will be available. If you have more specific questions about privacy, medication, or anything else related to gender inclusion at camp, please reach out to Sara Sedgwick, Camp Program Director.



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