

Dear California Experience Camper Family,

We are so excited to begin our 9th year of California Experience for boys and girls! Enclosed you will find important information for your camper's stay at camp. Please read through everything carefully and hold onto this information!

California Girls: The 2021 dates of camp are **Monday, August 9th** to **Saturday, August 14th**.

California Boys: The 2021 dates of camp are **Monday, August 16th** to **Saturday, August 21st**.

Forms will be available in your myExCamps account to complete beginning in April and will then be due on May 1. PLEASE help us by completing these forms NO LATER than June 1.

Forms can be submitted online through your [myExCamps](#) account.

If you are unable to access your myExCamps account, or are having issues completing the forms, please inform us immediately for assistance at campers@experiencecamp.org or 833-226-7385.

California Contact Information

(these are the leaders who will be on-site with your camper during the week of camp)

Girls Program

Cathy Spear
Clinical Director
781-820-3388

cathy@experiencecamps.org

Martha Straus
Program Director
484-802-4483

martha@experiencecamps.org

Boys Program

Jay Clayton
Clinical Director
909-802-8571

jay@experiencecamps.org

Richard "Skoop" Glass
Program Director
773-450-3176

richard@experiencecamps.org

Please read on for Travel information, packing lists and communication guidelines.

2021 California Girls Travel Information

DATES OF CAMP: MONDAY, AUG 9TH – SATURDAY, AUG 14TH

This year we encourage caregivers to drop your camper off at camp. If you are planning to drop your camper directly off at camp, email campers@experiencecamps.org. Please note that bus times below are exact. We will not hold the bus if you are late, as other campers and families are waiting at the next location.

To Camp (Monday, August 9th):

- **Inglewood:** Assemble at 9:30am PT, depart at 10:00am PT. Home Depot parking lot at 8801 S La Cienega Blvd, Inglewood, CA.
- **Irvine:** Assemble at 10:45am PT, depart at 11:15am PT. Walmart parking lot at 16555 Von Karman Ave A, Irvine, CA.
- **Riverside:** Assemble at 10:00am PT, depart at 10:30am PT. Behind Riverside Plaza at 3553 Merrill Ave, across from the movie theater next to America's Tire Store.
- **Individual Flight to San Diego Airport:** For campers flying to camp, please arrange flights to arrive at the San Diego Airport by 9:45am PT. Be sure to register your camper as flying as an unaccompanied minor, if applicable, both with the airline and on the travel form. Please see our Flying To Camp FAQ [here](#).
- **Mission Valley:** Assemble at 10:30am PT, depart at 11:00am PT. Bed, Bath & Beyond parking lot at 1750 Camino Del Rio North, San Diego, CA 92108 (Westfield Mission Valley, just east of the Mission Valley Mall).
- **Escondido:** Assemble at 11:30am PT, depart at 12:00pm PT. Walmart parking lot at 1330 E Grand Ave, Escondido, CA 92027.

From Camp (Saturday, August 14th):

Buses will depart camp after lunch, returning to:

- **Mission Valley**, Bed, Bath & Beyond at approximately 12:30pm PT.
- **San Diego Airport**, at approximately 1:30pm PT.
 - **Individual Flights:** Please arrange flights that depart no earlier than 3:30pm PT.
- **Riverside**, behind Riverside Plaza, at approximately 1:30pm PT.
- **Irvine**, Walmart parking lot, at approximately 1:00pm PT.
- **Inglewood**, Home Depot parking lot, at approximately 2:30pm PT.
- NO ESCONDIDO RETURN

Address of Green Oak Ranch: 1237 Green Oak Rd, Vista, CA 92081

Experience Camps strongly believes that no camper should miss out on camp because of transportation needs. Transportation scholarships will be available to campers on a first come, first served basis. Caregivers must submit an application, which will be reviewed by the ExCamps National office. For financial assistance with travel, please complete this [application](#).

Note: Additional bus stop locations will be considered as camper applications come in.
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2021 California Boys Travel Information

DATES OF CAMP: MONDAY, AUG 16TH – SATURDAY, AUG 21ST

This year we encourage caregivers to drop your camper off at camp. If you are planning to drop your camper directly off at camp, email campers@experiencecamps.org. Please note that bus times below are exact. We will not hold the bus if you are late, as other campers and families are waiting at the next location.

To Camp (Monday, August 16th):

- **Inglewood:** Assemble at 9:30am PT, depart at 10:00am PT. Home Depot parking lot at 8801 S La Cienega Blvd, Inglewood, CA.
- **Irvine:** Assemble at 10:45am PT, depart at 11:15am PT. Walmart parking lot at 16555 Von Karman Ave A, Irvine, CA.6
- **Riverside:** Assemble at 10:00am PT, depart at 10:30am PT. Behind Riverside Plaza at 3553 Merrill Ave, across from the movie theater next to America's Tire Store.
- **Individual Flight to San Diego Airport:** For campers flying to camp, please arrange flights to arrive at the San Diego Airport by 9:45am PT. Be sure to register your camper as flying as an unaccompanied minor, if applicable, both with the airline and on the travel form. Chaperones will be present at the San Diego airport to receive the campers and escort them on the bus to camp. Snacks will be provided once campers land.
- **Mission Valley:** Assemble at 10:30am PT, depart at 11:00am PT. Bed, Bath & Beyond parking lot at 1750 Camino Del Rio North, San Diego, CA 92108 (Westfield Mission Valley, just east of the Mission Valley Mall).
- **Escondido:** Assemble at 11:30am PT, depart at 12:00pm PT. Walmart parking lot at 1330 E Grand Ave, Escondido, CA 92027.

From Camp (Saturday, August 21st):

Buses will depart camp after lunch, returning to:

- **Mission Valley**, Bed, Bath & Beyond at approximately 12:30pm PT.
- **San Diego Airport**, at approximately 1:30pm PT.
 - **Individual Flights:** Please arrange flights that depart no earlier than 3:30pm PT.
- **Riverside**, behind Riverside Plaza, at approximately 1:30pm PT.
- **Irvine**, Walmart parking lot, at approximately 1:00pm PT.
- **Inglewood**, Home Depot parking lot, at approximately 2:30pm PT.
- NO ESCONDIDO RETURN

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Note: Additional bus stop locations will be considered as camper applications come in.

Camper Packing List

NOTE THAT THERE IS LIMITED AMOUNT OF STORAGE SPACE IN EACH CABIN SO LARGE SUITCASES WILL NOT FIT. IF POSSIBLE, CAMPERS SHOULD PACK AS LIGHTLY AS POSSIBLE, IN DUFFLE BAGS OR SOMETHING EQUALLY COMPRESSIBLE.

Apparel and Accessories

- 4-5 t-shirts
- 1 long sleeve t-shirt
- 2 pairs of jeans/long pants
- 2-3 pairs of shorts
- 2 sweatshirts or sweaters
- 1 pair of sneakers for sports
- 1 pair of sneakers for walking around
- 1 pair of flip-flops
- 7 pairs of underwear
- 7 pairs of socks
- 2 sets of pajamas (one warm, one light)
- 1 hat
- 1 lip balm
- 1 refillable water bottle
- 1 small backpack or drawstring bag

Bed and Bath

- 1 blanket or sleeping bag
- 1 set of twin sheets
- 1 pillow
- 1 shower tote/basket (include toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush, deodorant, personal hygiene products)
- 1 washcloth
- 1 shower or swim cap (optional)
- 2 bath towels
- 1 beach towel
- 1 pair shower flip-flops
- 2 swimsuits (for active water sports)
- 1 flashlight
- **Optional:** books, non-electronic games, stuffed animal

Note: shampoo, soap, sunscreen, and insect repellent will be provided at camp. Only pack if camper needs a specific brand. No hair dryers or flat irons should be brought to camp. Keep in mind that this is a summer camp so we ask that campers pack clothes that allow for active motion.

Medication

Any medication, prescription or over-the-counter, should be in its original package and will be held by the camp nurse for the duration of the week. Medication must be labeled.

**We ask that each camper bring a photo
or memento of the person who died.**

We do not allow electronics at camp. Please leave anything with a screen at home. This includes phones, iPads, handheld video games, etc. No Food. Campers do not need any cash while they are at camp. In fact, it's better if you don't send them with any!

Please LABEL EVERY SINGLE ITEM!
Communication Tips & Guidelines

Below are a few guidelines to help set expectations with your camper AND for you to get comfortable with what the week of camp entails.

Communication While at Camp

Part of the experience of camp and the amazing bonds that are formed is being away from your parent or caregiver! We know that's hard to read as a parent or caregiver, but it's true. We have put in place the following guidelines to allow for a fully engaged week of fun. We've also been doing this for a long time and it works!

- Unless your camper will be flying to camp as an unaccompanied minor, please do not send cell phones with campers to camp. This is a screen-free week! They can bring small music players that do not have cellular service. If cellphones are brought (for travel or other reasons), we will hold them in the office for safe keeping during the week.
- You will not be able to make or receive calls or exchange emails with your camper while they are at camp. No news is good news. **If there is an issue, one of our directors will call you!** If you need to reach us in case of emergency, please contact a director listed above.
- A daily note will be sent home via email each day and will include a link to the day's photos. If you do not have access to email, we suggest that you give us someone's contact information who can print out the emails for you, so you can read about what they do each day. It will help with conversation starters when your camper returns home after camp.
- If you're on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter, be sure to follow us! We post a lot of information, articles, pictures and videos throughout the year.

Communication Regarding Medical/Health Issues:

- If there is any emergency, our medical staff or a director will immediately call and indicate that the call is an emergency.
- You will also be called if your child stays in the Infirmary for more than 24 hours, or needs antibiotics.
- In view of that, if you receive a call from the Infirmary regarding a medical issue, the purpose of the call will be stated clearly at the outset. We hope this policy will add to your ability to remain calm and confident that we have both your and your child's best interests at heart.
- A fully equipped Infirmary is staffed 24 hours per day. We always have medical staff on-site.

One More Thing:

- A lot of first-time campers (and even a few returning campers), get nervous as camp approaches. They might be worried about leaving you and they might sense that you're sad and anxious about it as well. Please remember: this week could very well change their lives. It's unbelievably fun and chances are, once they arrive they are going to be GREAT. Instead of saying "you don't have to go", say "I know you're going to love it." And then put them on the bus. We can't wait to see your camper this summer!
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