



**TEEN ADVENTURE CAMP
INFORMATION GUIDE
Camp Laurel 2024**



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WELCOME

Welcome to the Parent's Guide to Camp Laurel. We look forward to sharing the best experience that Camp Laurel has to offer to your child. For over thirty years, The Laurel Foundation has offered free camp programs to at-risk children and their families and has all but perfected our programs with over 50 years of a combined residential camp experience. Now in its 32nd year. The Laurel Foundation is an accredited camp of the American Camping Association, which recognizes that our organization has passed strict health and safety measures.

Whether your child is new to camp or if they are a returning camper, this guide will help you through every aspect of our camp program.

By now you have signed up for a camp session and have returned our multiple-page application or update packet. If we need any additional information, we will contact you immediately. This will assure that your child is best served in our camp setting.

On behalf of The Laurel Foundation's Board of Directors, and staff, we welcome you to the continuing tradition of Camp Laurel.

Who We Are?

The mission of The Laurel Foundation is to enrich and empower at-risk youth through diverse and educational camp experiences. Our population served is children and youth affected by HIV and AIDS, transgender and gender diverse youth. We strive to give youth an opportunity to experience wilderness camping in order to enrich their lives.

The Laurel Foundation will provide opportunities for each child to broaden their capabilities and heighten their self-esteem.

The Laurel Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing:

- an emotionally and physically safe unique camping opportunity for the youth
- an atmosphere where children can forget about their stresses, and enjoy life
- a safe, structured environment for all campers
- supportive environment to children and youth where they can be their authentic self
- novel and unique experiences to campers

And the best part of the program is - it's FUN!! Campers make new friends, have new experiences, and learn important lessons all at the same time. No other extra-curricular activity can even hope to match what we offer. But don't take our word for it. Just ask the thousands of former campers who have experienced Camp Laurel year after year. It truly is an experience that will last a lifetime!

Teen Adventure Camp

Teen Adventure Camp is a six-day camp for youth affected by HIV and AIDS ages 13-17. It is a time to learn new skills, find their inner strength, learn about college entry and careers and have fun!

Activities include a cooking, woodworking, an internship at Pepsico, movie making, beach day and more!

Medical Staff and Procedures

Camp Laurel's Medical Staff

Each camp session is staffed with an expert medical team. This team supervises your child's health and administers medical care and routine medications. Camp Laurel maintains a staff of nurses on-site 24-hours a day to handle your child's medical needs. While at camp, the Medical Staff operate under the direct supervision of our on-site Medical Doctor.

Camp Laurel's Medical Procedures

If your child needs medical attention while at camp, we will call you to let you know, and documentation of any treatment and instructions for further action will be sent home with your child.

Should a medical emergency occur while your child is at camp, our medical staff will first assess the situation and decide the most appropriate course of action to take. We will call you, to make you aware of the situation, and inform you of the steps we intend to take.

Camp Laurel's Medication Management:

At Camp Laurel, we strive to maintain an absolutely perfect safety record. Managing medications for our campers and volunteer staff population is a very serious endeavor that is successful only with your cooperation.

Parents have many concerns when sending their children off to camp. Making sure they have taken their medications, accurately and on schedule, should not be one of them.

We dispense over 100 medications in any one-day at camp. This is made possible by prepackaging the medications into daily doses using an established standardized packaging system. **Prepackaging medications is among the most reliable methods to reduce the risk of medication errors.** Therefore, based on the American Camp Association guidelines, only a registered nurse and/or medical staff are responsible for administering the daily medication while campers attend camp.

Mail

For this camp we will not be taking any mail for the campers. We are being housed at CSUN and mail would take too long to get the campers.

You may also send a "one-way email" to your child which we will print out and deliver to them. One-way emails (please limit to maximum one a day and only 2 per session) should be sent to: MAnderson@Laurel-Foundation.org

Emergency Contact/Drop off Procedures

If there is an emergency and you should need to speak with The Laurel Foundation staff, you will be able to call our emergency line at (213) 300-CAMP.

Sending your child to camp on that first day is sometimes a chaotic experience. In order to alleviate some of the chaos, we have created a sense of order on departure to Camp Day.

First, you must arrive with your child, your child's belongings and any previously uncompleted forms at the time stated on your "Transportation Flyer", which we will email to you 2 weeks before camp. ***Because the risk of COVID-19 is still with us, we ask that everyone at check-in wear a mask.***

[Drop Off Procedure & Safety Rules](#)

*** IMPORTANT: ALL CAMPERS MUST TAKE A RAPID COVID TEST 2 DAYS PRIOR TO CAMP - THIS MEANS ON Thursday JULY 25, 2025 YOU MUST HAVE YOUR CHILD TAKE A TEST AND THEN EMAIL THE RESULTS TO ELIAS AT Info@laurel-Foundation.org**

Drop Off:

When: **Saturday, July 27, 2024**

Time: **11:00AM**

Where: **Cal State Northridge Campus Lindley Parking Lot E9**

*There is no direct address however the **Parking Lot is on Lindley between Lassen & Halstead - See attached map**

Will be emailed to you.

The following safety procedures have been put into place to ensure the safety of your child at Camp Laurel drop-off and pick-up locations:

Drop Off:

- Please stay clear of the parking lot flow of traffic. This is a working facility and there will be many cars coming in and out of the parking lot.
- We will check-in campers in your car. Please when you arrive and remain in your car. Once you have checked in, you will then drive to the Medical Team station, where you will complete a Medication Form for the medications you will be dropping off for your child.
- We will provide every camper with a rapid test prior to boarding the bus
- Once your child is checked in and tests negative, they will be able to board the bus.
- Your child will be set to have a GREAT time!! Don't forget to confirm the return date and time, for your child's pick up.

Pick Up Procedure & Safety Rules

Pick Up:

Date: August 1, 2024

Time: 10:00 AM

Place

Will be emailed to you.

Return-from-camp-day is almost as hectic as departure-to-camp-day. We have, however, established the following procedures to make it even easier for you.

We ask that you arrive at the Camp Laurel to pick up your child, on time (the time designated on your "Transportation Flyer").

- At pick up, we will release your child when you arrive. Please be patient as we do this one by one. Remember to get your campers medications and luggage. We will release children only to parents/guardians and adults named on the Camp Laurel Camper Care and Medication Form (the form you completed at Check-In). Please have your photo ID ready so we can release your camper. If you are unable to pick up your child at the end of camp, please make sure to specify notify The Laurel Foundation prior to pick up and let them know who is authorized to pick up your child.
- When releasing campers, The Laurel Foundation will ask to see photo identification for anyone (including parents/guardians or anyone listed on the Camper Care and Medication Form) picking up a child. Please have it ready so that we may release your child.

- Please be patient when the campers are being checked out and released to you at the end of Camp. We must check all identification and distribute medications before releasing your child.
- Please keep clear of traffic in the parking lot.

Before you leave to pick up your child, please call 213-300-2267 for traffic information and an updated bus arrival time. Please use this number for any communication with

Evaluations

Within two weeks of your child's return from camp, you will receive an evaluation form via email. It is extremely helpful to us for you to complete this. We are constantly trying to improve Camp Laurel to ensure your child's experience at Camp is the BEST!

Parent Orientation

The Parent Orientation is a highly recommended event that you as a parent should attend before your child is scheduled to depart for Camp. The Parent Orientation is held via ZOOM. It is a short meeting where you can ask questions about Camp Laurel, meet some of the camp staff, and share your excitement about your child coming to Camp.

Please Contact Samantha for more information at (626) 683-0800 and to Register for the meeting. Email: Info@Laurel-Foundation.org

The Orientation date is July 17th, 2024 at 7:00 PM.

Lost and Found

The camp staff and all The Laurel Foundation employees are not responsible for any items lost or stolen during the course of camp. Should we find any items left behind by campers, we will gladly hold them at the office for one week. We will make every attempt to contact you if the item is labeled. After one week, the items will be donated to a thrift store. Please note that cell phones are not allowed at camp for the campers. We will ask you to take their phones home with you when you drop your child off at Camp.

Camp Activities

Movie Making

Camper will learn about movie making, everything from creating a script to filming, acting, editing video and more. Campers will learn about all careers in the entertainment industry.

Wood Working

Campers will learn how to use a drill, electric saw and more to build things out of wood and learn about building a career in woodworking.

Cooking

Campers will learn from a real Chef all about a career in cooking.

Philanthropy

Campers will participate in a philanthropic event to learn how to save our environment.

Pepsico

Campers will visit a Pepsico working plant and learn all the careers within the company, how to climb the corporate ladder and work hands on with some projects.

The Beach

Campers will spend the day at the beach having fun and learning about the ocean and how to protect it.

Evening Programs

Evenings will be spent in support groups, career sessions and fun activities around Los Angeles.

Camper Behavior Development

At Camp Laurel, we implement a traditional positive behavior development model. Within this model, our counselors are trained to provide structure, set expectations for camper behavior, give campers choices, as well as praise them when positive choices are made. We continually strive to foster a community that ensures both physical and emotional safety for all members.

If a behavioral issue arises our counselors are trained to address the issue the first time by having a conversation with the camper(s) in a way that is respectful and constructive. Campers are not shamed for an undesired behavior or choice made; instead, counselors facilitate a conversation that leads to a behavior plan that encourages a more appropriate behavioral choice in the future.

A positive behavior management plan will likely contain an appropriate consequence or resolution. A consequence is designed for learning and correcting behavior. It is designed to be fair and meaningful, not a punishment.

If the behavioral plan with the counselor is not successful and/or the behavior escalates to an unsafe level, it will be brought to the attention of the Camp Director and Mental Health team. Each behavioral situation and camper are different. If a call home is needed, parents will be notified to discuss the situation. Campers who are unable to make behavioral corrections and/or are imposing physical danger to themselves or others will be asked to leave camp.

All counselors are trained in appropriate standards of conduct and child abuse prevention guidelines. Through those training, counselors understand that physical or emotional abuse/punishment will not be tolerated in any circumstance.

Camp Laurel ensures that behavioral specialists are a part of the counseling staff each session. These professionals play a critical role in helping coach campers and staff through challenging situations.

It is our goal to provide a safe and inclusive environment for all Camp Laurel participants.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Why does Camp Laurel require an annual Physical?

Requiring an annual physical in order to attend our camp programs is a great way to ensure everyone is physically able to attend.

Can I call my camper during the week?

We prefer not. Camp is a time for children to grow and gain self-esteem through experiencing independence. Our experience shows that if a child is in contact with their parent, they will grow homesick and wish to return home. Please feel free to call the Camp Director at camp to ask how your child is doing! We will be posting photos on our social media accounts as well.

How are the Camp Counselors screened and selected?

The Laurel Foundation's priority is to ensure the safety and well-being of our campers at all times during camp sessions and camp-related activities. It is the policy of The Laurel Foundation that every applicant endures a rigorous selection process involving a pre-screening phone interview, group interview, reference checks, and a criminal background check. Additionally, each volunteer must attend 24 hours' worth of Camp Laurel volunteer training.

How does the wait list work?

We encourage everyone to turn in their application as soon as possible to avoid being placed on the waitlist. If your child is wait-listed, though there are no guarantees, there is a good chance that they will be able to attend camp because it is likely that there will be cancellations. If there are cancellations, you will be confirmed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Why can't I bring my cell phone or electronics to camp?

Camp is an opportunity to spend quality time with each other and for campers to get away from their everyday challenges. Cell phones, electronic games, iPods, tablets, etc. are prohibited. These are considered "anti-social devices" and would not allow you or your child to fully enjoy camp.

Is there a Camp Group photo?

Yes, everyone poses for a group picture on the first day of camp. This photo is just for the kids to have as a keepsake of camp.

What to Bring

Your child will experience exciting activities while at camp, and in order to enjoy your time it is important to pack carefully for the weather. The average temperature during the day is 85 degrees and 65 degrees at night. Campers will sleep in dorm rooms. Cabin assignment will be made based on camper age and gender.

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING LIST CAREFULLY!!

We've created the following checklist for your use so that you can pack properly for camp.

- ✓ Use a bag that zips completely close to pack your child's items.
- ✓ 1 sleeping bag OR
- ✓ 1 fitted single sheet (for mattress cover)
- ✓ At least 2 pairs of comfortable, athletic/hiking shoes
- ✓ Sleepwear (modest)
- ✓ Personal toiletry items (menstrual products, deodorant, etc.)
- ✓ Toothbrush & toothpaste
- ✓ Bath soap/shampoo (Travel size)
- ✓ Hairbrush/Comb
- ✓ Lip balm with SPF
- ✓ Sunscreen
- ✓ 4-6 pairs of socks
- ✓ 6 pairs of underwear
- ✓ 3 pairs of durable jeans
- ✓ 3 pairs of modest shorts
- ✓ 5 t-shirts (camp appropriate- no adult language or images)
- ✓ 2 sweatshirts/sweaters/sweatpants
- ✓ 2 bath towels
- ✓ Sunglasses
- ✓ At least 1 Flashlight and batteries
- ✓ 1 bathing suit - modest
- ✓ 1 pillow
- ✓ 1 bag for dirty laundry
- ✓ Prescription Meds (MUST give to Med staff in ORIGINAL containers before departure)
- ✓ Shower Shoes- flip flops (for shower use only)
- ✓ Masks! - Vaccinated or not please pack a minimum a couple of masks

** If for any reason you do not have access to any of the items listed above, please contact Samantha at (626) 683-0800

What Not to Wear

To help create an emotionally and physically safe, as well as culturally sensitive environment for your youth, we ask that **all** campers dress appropriately for camp. These guidelines are for outdoor and indoor activities. In advance, we thank you for your cooperation and look forward to a fun-filled camp!

General:

- No clothing with adult language or images
- No open-toed or open-backed shoes
- No half-shirts/crop tops or low riding jeans (we don't want to see any belly buttons or undergarments)
- No low cut tops
- No short shorts or short skirts
- No sagging pants (again, no belly buttons or undergarments, so please wear well-fitting pants or a belt)

What Not to Bring:

Please help us prevent any problems before they start. Make sure you and your child do not bring any valuables or other forbidden items to camp.

The following items are NOT permitted:

- Anything valuable
- Cell Phones
- iPods, mp3 players, tablets, etc.
- Video Games
- Money
- Weapons
- Fireworks or other dangerous items
- Alcohol or controlled substances (marijuana, tobacco, nicotine, electronic cigarettes, vaping, etc.) prescription medication, over the counter medications needed will be checked in by the RN and reviewed. All medications must be in original containers.
- Toys
- Matches /lighters
- Any pet or other live animal
- Cigarettes or other tobacco products
- Vehicles
- Personal sport equipment

We suggest each camper pack all belongings in a duffel bag clearly marked with his/her name. No trunks or hard suitcases are allowed. Each camper is permitted only 2 pieces of luggage. **NO TRASH BAGS PLEASE.**

How to Get More Involved

The Laurel Foundation is always in search of another kind heart. If you want to get more involved in your child’s camp experience or The Laurel Foundation family in general, there are a number of ways you can do it. We always need help with the following: distributing fliers, mass mailing of the newsletter, making posters, fundraising events, registration and check-in on departure day, and coordinating the transportation of all the children to and from camp. You can also help The Laurel Foundation by volunteering as a counselor, coach, or referee and by donating money to the Camp Laurel program.

Support from the community is growing every year and that support takes on many forms -- from direct service to monetary and product donations. We want your help too! If you are willing to dedicate some time to The Laurel Foundation, we can certainly find a mutually beneficial way to use your knowledge and skills that will be rewarding for all of us.

For more information, please call The Laurel Foundation office at 626-683-0800 and say, “I want to help!”

We hope this helps you prepare for your child’s experience at Camp Laurel.

Find Us Online



www.Laurel-Foundation.org



www.instagram.com/thelaurelfdn



www.Facebook.com/TheLaurelFdn



www.Twitter.com/TheLaurelFdn



www.Youtube.com/TheLaurelFdn

Contact Us:

The Laurel Foundation

75 S. Grand Ave., Pasadena, CA 91105

Phone: (626) 683-0800 Fax: (626) 683-0890

