



2024 Camp Winnarainbow Family Handbook

Dear Campers and their Adults,

We are so glad you have chosen Camp Winnarainbow this summer! This Family Handbook is brimming with information that will help prepare you for the adventures of Camp Winnarainbow. Thank you for including your Camper in our community! In all aspects of our program, from running full background checks on every staff member, to ensuring we have enough juggling balls, to providing every Camper three delicious meals a day, taking care of your Camper is our focus and our delight. We can't wait to see you this summer!

Please read this handbook, and if you have any questions don't hesitate to ask us. You can reach us by calling (510) 525-4304 or emailing us at mail@campwinnarainbow.org.

Camp Winnarainbow's goal is to partner with you in raising your child to gain the 21st century skills they need to succeed in their lives. We are passionate about providing a safe and fun learning environment for everyone involved in Camp Winnarainbow. Your help is essential. Whether your Camper is new or returning, please read this handbook carefully, discuss its contents with your Camper, and save it for future reference.

Toward the Fun!

Ginger Jackson-Gleich

Interim Executive Director

Osayande Kokayi

Program Manager

Mayahuel Montoya

Administrative Manager

Jahanara Romney

Founding Director

Wavy Gravy

Founding Director

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American Camp Association Accreditation

Camp Winnarainbow is accredited by the [American Camp Association \(ACA\)](#). Our program, operations, and facility undergo rigorous annual review to meet or exceed the ACA industry standard for Camp excellence. ACA standards review all aspects of running a camp safely, and include guidance on staff hiring, operations, emergency response protocols, lake safety, programming, food service, and health and wellness protocols. Camp Winnarainbow is an industry leader in youth development and leadership. We are proud of creating an equitable, inclusive community where diversity is celebrated.



Camp Winnarainbow Philosophy

For over 40 years, kids, teens and adults have run away to join our circus in beautiful Mendocino County. Drawing on our knowledge of the arts as well as how to build a strong community, our well-trained staff teaches timing, balance and as Wavy Gravy says: “Survival in the 21st century or how to duck with a sense of humor and a dollop of compassion. Kids can then take this into their lives and assist them forever.”

Wavy goes on to explain: “Kids from every walk of life come together and make a kind of a universal whole at Camp. Everybody gets something from each other and we end up being a community together and filled with love and wonder.”

At the heart of our philosophy is a desire to celebrate our Diversity and use everything we learn and create together to grow as Universal Human Beings. With the skills and community we gain at Camp we are able to change the world.

Registration Day

Camp Winnarainbow's physical address is **50350 N. Hwy 101 Laytonville, CA 95454**

We are located approximately three (3) hours north of the San Francisco Bay Area on CA Hwy 101.

There are two options for transporting your Camper to Camp:

1. You (or someone you trust) brings your Camper to Camp Winnarainbow in Laytonville.
2. You sign up for the Bus that leaves from Berkeley (see below – space is limited; sign up during registration or contact the office for more details.)

Camper Drop-Off at Camp in Laytonville (Monday 3pm-5pm)

Plan to arrive between 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm on the first day of your Camper's session. Your Camper's counselor and teen staff will be waiting to greet you and help them get settled into Camp. ***Do not arrive early on registration day. The Camp facility is not open to parents or Campers before 3:00pm.***

There are three stations for registration: the check-in table, lice check (see below), and medical check-in. There may be long lines at any of these depending on how many families show up at the same time. We thank you in advance for your patience.

Families should plan ahead on how to say, "See ya later!" to your Camper. Counselors will help with any Campers who might be feeling sad or nervous. Office staff and Directors will be at the office until the last Camper is checked in. Registration concludes at 5pm, and then Camp begins! We start with a dinner circle where we sing songs and share about safety, where everything in Camp is located, what the first day at Camp will look like, etc. If you have arranged for a check-in with a Camper Advocate or MESH person regarding Safety Plans, you will check in with them at registration. Ask anyone at the registration table and they will point you in the right direction!

If you are running late please call and give us your ETA, so we can be prepared to greet you. **NO PETS** are allowed at Camp (except licensed service animals). Please keep your pets at home. There are no shaded parking areas. **DO NOT BRING YOUR PETS TO CAMP!**

Important Note About Forms

Camp Winnarainbow uses secure CampBrain™ software for all enrollment and form collection for Campers. When you register your Camper, you must complete the medical forms and camper information forms. Tipi requests made at enrollment and on the forms are used to place Campers and staff in tipis. Counselors carefully review the medical form and Camper info sheets for every Camper in their care. At registration, a staff member will help ensure all the correct forms have been submitted.

MESH Forms

Camp Winnarainbow is steadfast in its commitment to nurturing the mental, emotional, and social health (MESH) of every child entrusted to our care. Acknowledging the profound challenges brought forth by the COVID era since March 2020, coupled with the weight of social and environmental stressors, it is evident that these unprecedented times have posed formidable obstacles for both children and families alike. Against the backdrop of this extraordinary chapter in human history, camps and schools nationwide find themselves grappling with the tangible mental health outcomes of this shared experience. As we collectively navigate towards a post-pandemic present, Camp Winnarainbow seeks to join forces with you, the dedicated parents and guardians of our Campers, in fostering an environment that prioritizes their holistic well-being. To this end, we are introducing a new form on [the parent portal](#), designed to offer comprehensive insights into your child's MESH background.

We kindly ask you to take a moment to [log in](#) and complete this crucial information sheet. This invaluable information will empower our seasoned staff to support your Camper's experience and form a collaborative partnership with you in the process.

Should you wish for our MESH staff to focus with particular attention on your Camper's needs, we invite you to reach out to our office via phone. *Your cooperation in completing all necessary paperwork by **May 15th** is sincerely appreciated, as it enables us to prepare for your Camper's arrival and camp experience.*

Lice Policy

Camp Winnarainbow has a zero tolerance policy toward head lice. Anyone can contract lice, so please check your child thoroughly before they arrive at Camp. We will not register a child who has lice or nits, and will not be able to offer a refund. A head lice check is required at check-in at Camp in Laytonville and also before boarding the bus in Berkeley.

Children with any sign of head lice, even nits that appear dead, will not be allowed in Camp until all nits have been removed. If your child is found to have lice or nits at registration, the Camp Director will work out a plan with you to clear your child and hopefully return to Camp **after 24 hours**. (There are professional nit picking services who specialize in getting rid of lice. Let us know if you need referrals.)

Directions to Laytonville

Physical address: **50350 N. Hwy 101, Laytonville, CA 95454**

Driving north from the San Francisco Bay Area:

Plan on an approximately three-hour drive north on Highway 101. We are located directly off of Highway 101, five miles north of the town of Laytonville, CA at highway marker 74.50. On the left, you

will see a sign for Camp Winnarainbow – that is our driveway. Signs will lead you to the Camp parking and registration area. Please call or email if you need more detailed directions.

Driving south from Eureka:

Expect an approximately three-hour drive south on Highway 101. We are located directly off of Highway 101, 22 miles south of Leggett, California at highway marker 74.50. On the right is our driveway, although it is hard to see the sign coming from the north, so keep your eyes out for the highway mile markers. If you reach the town of Laytonville, you have gone too far. Once on our driveway, signs will lead you to the Camp parking and registration area.

Bus From Berkeley (Monday - Check-in at 11am; Departs at 12pm)

If you are unable to drive your Camper to Camp, a ONE-WAY charter bus is available to deliver a limited number of Campers to Camp Winnarainbow from Berkeley. NOTE: THERE IS NO RETURN TRANSPORTATION FOR CAMPERS – plan to come to Camp in Laytonville on the last day to take your Camper home!

Here are the details for the bus to Camp:

- You must pre-register and pay for your Camper’s bus fee [online](#). Spots are limited!
- Arrive at 11:00 to check-in your child for the bus. Plan on staying until the bus leaves.
- The bus leaves at approximately 12:00pm from Live Oak Park in Berkeley.
- Live Oak Park is located at the intersection of Berryman Street and Shattuck Avenue in Berkeley (1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, CA 94709).
- Be sure to review any requirements for COVID testing and complete testing requirements before driving to the bus drop off.
- What to bring: luggage, water and lunch for the ride. You must deliver any medications to the nurse at check in, in their original prescription bottle or over-the-counter packaging, not in a pill organizer – please keep these separately outside of camper luggage. Please see below for more info about medications at Camp!
- Your Camper will be checked for head lice. If any sign of lice or nits, dead or alive, or eggs are found, your Camper will not be allowed on the bus. See more details above.
- The Camp Staff supervising the bus ride will remind Campers to use the restroom before boarding the bus.
- In the event of any emergency or issues with the bus, the Camp Director will be in contact with all parents/guardians.

Pick-Up & Open House (Saturday 2 pm-5 pm)

On the last day of each session, we have an Open House (for one-week sessions) or a Big Show (for two-week sessions) for families where your Camper can show you around Camp and share what they

learned. Camp will open to families at 2:00 pm and close at 5:00 pm. Depending on current COVID guidelines, we may have a shorter day or need to restrict the number of people attending. We will email announcements and protocols before and during your Camper's session.

Departure

Campers will be ready to leave by around 4:30pm on the last day of Camp. There is no camping at the Black Oak Ranch. There are several motels in Laytonville and nearby in Willits if you need to stay overnight.

If possible, do not take your Camper home early on the final day! If this cannot be avoided, please let us know as early in the session as possible so that we can let your Camper and their counselors know they will have limited participation in the Open House or Big Show.

Session Break

Campers who are staying more than one session may remain at Camp over the break between sessions, or parents may pick them up and return them to Camp before the next session. ***Please notify us in advance if you do NOT plan on picking up your Camper and wish for them to stay on site between sessions so that we can plan staffing.***

Preparing for the Time of Their Life!

An itemized packing list can be found at the end of this Handbook.

What to Bring

Luggage

Please limit your luggage to bedding and a duffle bag. Campers sleep in tipis, and soft luggage such as a duffle bag is preferable.

Bedding

The most important thing to bring is a good, WARM sleeping bag (it gets cold at night) and a pillow. All Campers are provided with a sleeping mat. An indoor 'sleepover' bag is not warm enough for Camp.

Clothing

Bring enough comfortable clothing to last **all** days of the Camp session. Include shorts, long pants, T-shirts, warmer clothes like a jacket or heavy sweater for cool evenings, closed-toed shoes and flip flops/sandals and PLENTY of socks and underwear. Remember: the Camp facility is rustic and in the woods. Campers are active; clothes get dirtied, lost or ruined at Camp. We encourage you to involve your Camper in packing for Camp so they are familiar with the items you're sending. Please label all items with the Camper's first initial and the full last name. Initials are not enough.

Laundry

We will wash all of your Camper's socks and underwear and at least five items of clothing at some time mid-session (for two-week sessions). If there is a bathroom accident, we will wash clothing/bedding as needed. We also provide laundry service for Campers staying multiple sessions.

Medications

All medications **MUST** be in the original prescription bottle with the Camper's name. They will be given to the Camp Nurse at Registration. Please be sure to send enough for the entire session and do not use pill boxes/organizers. If your Camper takes vitamins or supplements, consider if they are absolutely necessary for your Camper to take while they are at Camp – we try to minimize the burden on our nursing staff, who must dispense all necessary medication to Campers each day. If your Camper does need to take them on a daily basis, they must be in the original bottle.

The Camp Medical Dome carries most common over-the-counter (OTC) medications. Unless your Camper takes an OTC on a daily basis, you do not need to send yours to Camp. An exception to this is if your Camper only takes a certain flavor or preparation, as we may not have that exact type on hand.

ASTHMATIC CAMPERS: If your Camper has asthma (even if they rarely have symptoms) you **MUST** send their inhaler with them. Please also be sure to upload to CampBrain or bring a copy of their Asthma

Action Plan (this is developed with their primary care provider or pulmonologist). Blank forms can be found at <https://www.aafa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/asthma-action-plan-aafa.pdf>.

Lost and Found

Campers will occasionally lose things at Camp. Our staff work hard to send Campers home with all of their belongings. This is why we recommend putting your Camper's name on everything! Check through the Lost and Found with your Camper before they leave Camp! If you arrive home with something important missing, we will check the remaining Lost and Found for the first three days after each session. All items we cannot identify will be donated to charity after three days.

Cell Phone Policy

There is no camp-provided phone available for Camper use. We understand that many children use their phones to listen to music, white noise, books on tape and various other sleep aiding or regulating strategies. There is almost no cellular data and NO camper wi-fi on site. If phones are brought to camp, it is at your own risk. We are not responsible for any broken, damaged or stolen phones. Please keep in mind that this may be one of the rare opportunities your child may have to be away from screen time and the constant scroll. If your Camper says they want their phone to take pictures: disposable cameras, camcorders, and polaroid cameras are just itching for a comeback, and may be just the right solution!

What Not to Bring

Please do NOT allow your child to bring the following items to Camp:

- electronics
- walkie-talkie
- any fire-making device (including magnifying glasses and glass water bottles)
- fireworks or explosives
- weapons of any kind
- cash
- valuables
- pornography
- pets
- cigarettes including smokeless devices and vapes
- drugs
- alcohol

If Campers bring any musical recordings to share, all music must be appropriate for a 7-year-old. We do not support censorship of the arts and work as a community to balance that we are of all ages and diversity. We love it when Campers play musical instruments at Camp, but unfortunately we do not have good storage for instruments, so bring at your own risk. ***Please do not bring irreplaceable items to Camp.***

A Typical Day at Camp

A typical day at Camp Winnarainbow is designed to give Campers the ultimate in circus, performing, and summer camp experiences. Each part of the day focuses on skill building, making friends, and being active, all while having a massive amount of fun!

8:30 am– Let’s Go Cocoa!	12:45 pm – Tipi Check-In
8:50 am– Breakfast Circle	1:00 pm – LUNCH
9:00 am– BREAKFAST	1:30 pm – Free Time!!
9:30 am– Tipi Clean Up	5:45 pm – Tipi Check-In
9:45 am– Morning Reading	6:00 pm – Dinner Circle
10:10 am– Warm Ups	6:30 pm – DINNER
10:30 am– Class #1	7:00 pm – After Dinner Free Time
11:30 am– Class #2	8:00 pm – Evening Program
12:30 pm – Showtime	Around 10 pm – Bedtime

The Week at a Glance

One Week Sessions

Mon, Day 1	Tues, Day 2	Wed, Day 3	Thurs, Day 4	Fri, Day 5	Sat, Day 6
Registration 3pm-5pm	Community Guidelines	Full Morning of Classes!	Regular Day Schedule	Regular Day Schedule	Pillow Fight Tipi Clean Up
1st Dinner Circle Orientation Tipi Skit Night	First Class! Teacher Talent	Free Time Fire Circle	Adventure Night or Dance Party	Tornado of Talent!!!	Awards Open House Head Home!

Two Week Sessions

Mon, Day 1	Tues, Day 2	Wed, Day 3	Thurs, Day 4	Fri, Day 5	Sat, Day 6	Sun, Day 7
Registration 3pm-5pm	Community Guidelines First Class!	Full Morning of Classes	Full Morning of Classes	Full Morning of Classes	All Peoples Day	Sleep-in Sunday!
1st Dinner Circle Orientation Tipi Skit Night	Teacher Talent	Fire Circle	Tornado of Talent	Guest Performance	Fire Circle	Tipi Clean-Up Movie Night
Mon, Day 8	Tues, Day 9	Wed, Day 10	Thurs, Day 11	Fri, Day 12	Sat, Day 13	
Full Morning of Classes	Full Morning of Classes	Full Morning of Classes	Full Morning of Classes	Rehearsal Day All Day	Pillow Fight Tipi Clean Up Awards Ceremony Big Show Head Home!	
Dance Party	Guest Perf.	Adventure Night	Cabaret	Cabar-B		

Classes

Most days at Camp, we have two classes in the morning as well as certain classes during afternoon free time! **Almost all of our classes are free choice, meaning that for each period, Campers can choose which class they want to attend.** If they are confused about a class or don't know what to choose there is an assigned staff person for each period (called 'Straggler Patrol'), whose job it is to help Campers find a class and make sure everyone gets to where they want to be.

Adjusting to Summer Camp

Going away to summer camp includes fun, friendship and adventure. It provides children with an opportunity to learn, grow and feel good about themselves. However, going away to summer camp (especially for the first time) also entails adjustment for children and their parents. Coming to Camp may create feelings of homesickness. We regard this as a normal, healthy occurrence for youth. Facing homesickness teaches many skills, and your Camper will not be alone! We understand this process and are always able to support you and your Camper in preparing for Camp. Please feel free to contact the Camp office by phone or email to ask any questions you might have. Additionally, the ACA has many resources to help guide you through this—check out their website at the link below:

[American Camp Association: Preparing for Camp](#)

You know your Camper best. Camp Winnarainbow honors the story of every Camper. Your Camper's adult Counselors and Camper Advocates read the information that you share about your Camper in your registration paperwork. The MESH form is reviewed by our MESH specialist and Camper Advocates. We use this information to place your Camper in their tipi and develop strategies for supporting your Camper at Camp.

Another opportunity for you to help us learn your Camper's story is when you drop them off. If you drop them off at Camp you can speak to their counselor and offer strategies that might help us in supporting your Camper. If you are dropping them off at the bus, you can also speak with the Camp personnel there about any specifics. They will relay that information to the counselors at Camp. For bus dropoff, we also recommend that you send additional information via email *before* your Camper's session starts so we can inform your Camper's counseling team prior to arrival.

Communication

We know that staying in touch with your child is important to you, just as Campers and Camp benefit from your communication. **We do not have visiting days, and Campers do not have access to our office phones to contact you.** To request a check-in on your Camper or to let us know of a specific

concern that you have, call our office at (707) 984-6507. We will have the supervisor who works with your Camper’s tipi counselors discreetly check on your child, and return your call with an update within 24-48 hours. You can call for a check-in at any time during the session.

We will always call you if your Camper is having a concerning issue. These include medical issues, prolonged homesickness, safety concerns, or if your Camper is requesting to call you about a personal issue that they do not want to address with us.

Email

You can send an email note to your Camper at mail@campwinnarainbow.org. We will print it and send it to them through the Camp mail – *please do not include photos in the email as our printers at Camp cannot accommodate them.*

Letters are the Best Way to Communicate

Write your child some letters! You can leave them in the office the first day of Camp to be distributed throughout the session or mail within the first couple days of Camp. See our physical addresses below. You may also send emails to mail@campwinnarainbow.org and we can print out your messages and deliver them to your Camper!

Care Packages

We are not able to securely store care packages. Please consider letters and emails as your primary way to convey your love. If you want to send (or leave a care package at registration) only send one per Camper per session. Please make sure it only contains items that are allowed at Camp. We inspect all Camper packages at the office, and we remove prohibited items.

Favorite items: magazines and books, chapstick, and small activities that they can do during free time (e.g. embroidery thread for friendship bracelets, Rubik's cube, Mad Libs, Magic Cards). Shareable snacks such as chips, pretzels, popcorn, dried fruit without added sugar, jerky and crackers are allowed. We will remove sugary ingredients and any other items that are not allowed at Camp.

MAILING ADDRESS

<p><i>Letters or Packages through the USPS:</i></p> <p>CAMPER NAME & TIPI CAMP WINNARAINBOW PO BOX 1359 LAYTONVILLE, CA 95454</p>	<p><i>UPS or FedEx - use our street address:</i></p> <p>CAMPER NAME & TIPI CAMP WINNARAINBOW 50350 NORTH HIGHWAY 101 LAYTONVILLE, CA 95454</p>
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Community Expectations & Restorative Processes

Camp Winnarainbow Offering Restorative Justice - ORJ

Camp Winnarainbow community members agree to work together to learn, model, and engage in restorative practices for proactive behavior management. Conflict is inevitable when we work and live together. Camp is a community that strives to include all people from all walks of life, identities, socio-economic statuses, cultural and racial backgrounds in an equitable way. Restorative practices teach holistic skills to resolve differences and guide us to take responsibility and be accountable for our actions, in relation to our community and environment.

Restorative processes value healing and teaching – both by attending to the needs and wishes of those harmed and by providing opportunities to those that have hurt people to take responsibility for their behavior. All of our staff are trained in conflict mediation and actively work to support all Campers’ needs before challenges arise. Our framework of Camper support comes from skilled social workers, years of experience working with Campers, detailed staff training, and ACA guidelines.

Camper safety is our guiding principle for all our community members. When Camper behavior violates the safety of themselves or others, and restorative practices cannot address the behavior, Campers will be sent home. In addition, alcohol, tobacco and other drugs may not be possessed or used at Camp Winnarainbow, nor do we tolerate hate speech, bullying, sexual harassment or assault, violation of a behavior contract, physical violence, or running away from staff or Camp. The consequence for these instances may be an immediate send-home from Camp, regardless of time of day or inconvenience to a Camper’s family. There will not be any refund given for time missed for these reasons. In these instances, the Camp Director and lead staff will work closely with the Camper’s parents/guardians to determine the best course of action for the Camper.

Health and Safety

The health and safety of Campers is always paramount at Camp Winnarainbow. There is a licensed medical person on duty at all times, and the vast majority of our counselors are certified in first aid and CPR. There are first-aid kits in each tipi and an infirmary dome located in a quiet area of Camp. All of our circus skills instructors are experienced in teaching children and they employ appropriate and certified safety techniques. However, as we stated in our enrollment application, some of the skills we teach at Camp such as acrobatics, stilt-walking, aerials and unicycling, do carry an increased risk of injury. If there is a class in which you do not want your child to participate, you must notify us in writing prior to the start of the session(s) your child is attending.

The Black Oak Ranch / Camp Winnarainbow site is subject to county inspection each year. Our water, kitchen, food storage, and toilet facilities are all required to be at or above health code standards. Our waterfront staff credentials meet or exceed ACA standards and California regulations for Organized Camps.

The Camper Health Form must be completed before your Camper's arrival. If your child has special medications or if there are special instructions regarding their health, note this on the health form. Please give all medications *in the original packaging* to the Camp medical staff upon arrival at Camp or at the bus. All medications will be stored in the Medical Dome (infirmary), and your child will have access to them through the nurse on site.

If your Camper needs to take medication at Camp, the medication **MUST** be in the original prescription bottle with the Camper's name. Please be sure to send enough for the entire session and do not use pill boxes/organizers. If your Camper takes vitamins or supplements, consider if they are absolutely necessary for your Camper to take while they are at Camp – we try to minimize the burden on our nursing staff, who must dispense all necessary medication to Campers each day. If your Camper does need to take vitamins or supplements on a daily basis, they must be in their original over-the-counter containers.

The Camp Medical Dome carries most common over-the-counter (OTC) medications. Unless your Camper takes an OTC on a daily basis, you do not need to send yours to Camp. An exception to this is if your Camper only takes a certain flavor or preparation, we may not have that exact type on hand.

ASTHMATIC CAMPERS: If your Camper has asthma (even if they rarely have symptoms) you **MUST** send their inhaler with them. Please also be sure to upload to CampBrain or bring a copy of their Asthma Action Plan (this is developed with their primary care provider or pulmonologist). Blank forms can be found at <https://www.aafa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/asthma-action-plan-aafa.pdf>.

Childhood illnesses and scrapes do occasionally occur during Camp. We will treat minor problems at Camp and if it becomes necessary to take your child to the local clinic, we will contact you and follow your wishes for the care of your child. When we need to take a Camper to see a physician or dentist, we will bring the insurance information that you provided, and you will be billed directly. Please notify us if you take an out-of-area trip or will be at another phone number while your child is at Camp.

Staff are trained to keep all Campers safe during any emergency. Camp has written emergency plans that are updated annually. Camp Administrators attend local emergency preparedness meetings to coordinate plans with local authorities.

Camp Life

Staff

At Camp Winnarainbow, we have a large, carefully selected staff of adult counselors and professional performing artists. We perform background checks on all staff every year. All staff working at Camp Winnarainbow have experience working with children and many are parents themselves. We strive for a staff that represents a diversity of cultural backgrounds as well as a wide age range. Adult Staff are asked to attend an extensive week-long training before each summer season. Most of our adult and teen staff are former Campers and many received training for years as youth leaders at Camp Winnarainbow. We have a 90 – 95% return rate of our adult staff each year. Adult staff-to-camper ratio is 1:7 or better.

Meals

Meals are an important part of Camp life. We cook all of our meals from scratch using the best ingredients available. We serve meals family-style in our outdoor dining area. Tipi groups will take turns doing the dishes for the community.

We serve three meals every day. There is also pre-breakfast cocoa for early-risers, and an afternoon snack in Downtown Camp and at the Lake. We design meals for young people's tastes and nutrition. We do our best to accommodate special diets, but these should be discussed with us in advance if the case of a special food plan is needed. There is a meat, vegetarian and vegan and gluten-free option at every meal. We plan our portions accordingly, so please indicate on the Medical Forms any food allergies/restrictions/special dietary needs.

Please speak with your Camper and their counselor on registration day about any issues you anticipate for your Camper and eating while at Camp. We have plenty of food for everyone, and staff help Campers feel satisfied at every meal. Sometimes a Camper will need to let their counselor or another adult know they are not feeling full or getting what they need. Counselors pay attention to Camper needs at meals, but we also want to encourage Campers to practice expressing their own needs.

Camp Store / Cash

Providing money for your Camper to use at the Camp store is optional and can be added to your Camper's account through the [Parent Portal](#). The store sells Camp merchandise and snacks like juice and chips. During the session, Campers place their orders in the evenings and their 'Store Order' snacks are delivered during free time the following day. The typical amount on a Camper's store account is

\$15–\$25 per week. The Camp store will be open during the Open House and Big Show on the final day of the session. Proceeds from store purchases go directly to support Camp’s Financial Aid/Scholarship Fund, and any money left over after a Camper departs Camp may be donated as well!

The Facility

Camp Winnarainbow is held at the Black Oak Ranch facility in Mendocino County. The land is a mixture of meadows, wooded groves and hills with hiking trails. Camp has access to a year-round stream, where Campers may choose to spend relaxed free-time. Downtown Camp has a semi-circle of tipis where Campers sleep, and it includes the big top circus tent, extensive costume collection, a stage and amphitheater equipped with a professional light and sound system. The kitchen, outdoor dining area, showers, restrooms, and laundry facilities are nearby. The facility also includes a three-acre lake, Lake Veronica, for swimming and lounging on the beach or the raft. Camp life is lived outdoors and there are many shaded areas for classes and other adventures. The weather is usually warm to hot during the day and cool at night. Campers used to living in the city will appreciate the clear, starry nights.

Lodging and Tipi Assignments

Campers are housed in custom-made tipis with heavy-duty floors made of waterproof fabric. Comfortable sleeping mats are provided for each Camper. We group Campers by age and by the gender preference indicated on the registration form. We also provide Campers with the option to stay in a gender-neutral tipi. Each tipi will have at least two adult staff in charge and teen staff helpers.

We realize that for some Campers, it is very important that they be able to be in the same tipi with a friend. If Campers are the same age we will do our best to arrange this, but we cannot guarantee it. Even if Campers are not in the same tipi, there are many hours of opportunity for them to take classes, enjoy free time and sit together at shows with their friends. They will be able to share the Camp experience with previous friends, while making many new friends.

NOTE: Tipi placements are done before Camp begins. Please indicate on the Enrollment Form or email us in advance if your Camper wishes to be housed with a friend. We cannot accommodate new requests that are made upon arrival at Camp.

Birthdays at Camp

Our birthday tradition at Camp Winnarainbow was started by Wavy Gravy, as a classic clown event. If they choose, Campers may opt to be surprised on their birthday by a whipped cream pie-in-the-face, OR to pie themselves in the face, OR to choose a friend or staff to receive the Camper’s pie-in-the-face instead. This event typically occurs during meal time at the kitchen where the Camp community sings Happy Birthday, after which the Camper’s counselors help them wash off the whipped cream. All of this is optional and consensual depending on the Birthday Camper’s comfort level. You are welcome to send

or leave a birthday care package – following the care package guidelines noted above – and we’ll make sure your birthday Camper gets it the afternoon of their birthday.

Program Evaluation, Contact After Camp

After Camp Feedback

After your child returns home, you and your child will receive an experience survey. Completing this with your child is a wonderful way to learn more about their Camp experience and helps us improve our programs and service to your family. If you would prefer to speak with a Director after Camp to discuss your child’s experience, you may call or email us anytime.

Social Media, Camper, and Staff Contact After Camp

Camp Winnarainbow is founded on community-building and includes all members, including parents, guardians and extended family. However, our staff policy states that adult staff may not follow or have minor Campers or Teen Staff follow them on any social media nor share their personal contact information with minors.

What to Bring Checklist

(label every item with labels or laundry marker)

- warm sleeping bag (it gets cold at night)
- pillow
- shorts
- t-shirts, tank tops and casual clothing appropriate for hot days
- long pants (jeans and/or sweatpants – a must for cold mornings and stilts/aerials)
- long sleeves & a jacket, sweatshirt or sweater for cool evenings
- warm pajamas
- socks & underwear
- bag for dirty laundry
- swim suit
- 2 towels (one for showering, one for swimming)
- flashlight (w/extra batteries)
- two sets of footwear (a pair of sandals & closed-toed, sturdy shoes for stilting/unicycling)
- rain gear (rain is unlikely, though possible)
- toothpaste
- toothbrush
- soap
- deodorant
- hairbrush
- hair ties
- shampoo & conditioner
- washcloth
- toiletry bag for above items
- sunblock & chapstick
- insect repellent
- reusable water bottle

Optional:

- hat
- pre-addressed stationery/postcards and stamps
- earplugs may be useful if your child is a light sleeper
- digital camera
- books
- menstrual products (always available in medical dome)
- stuffed animal/small blanket