



2026 Camp Winnarainbow Family Handbook

Dear Campers and Families,

We are so glad you have chosen Camp Winnarainbow this summer, and we look forward to welcoming you into (or back to) our community. This Family Handbook will help you prepare for the adventure ahead. 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 (plus snacks) a day—caring for your Camper is our number one focus and delight. We can't wait to see you soon!

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!

The Camp Winnarainbow Team

Table of Contents

American Camp Association Accreditation.....	3
Camp Winnarainbow Philosophy.....	4
Arrival Day.....	5
Camper Drop-Off at Camp in Laytonville.....	5
Important Note About Forms.....	6
Lice Policy.....	6
Directions to Laytonville.....	7
Bus from Berkeley.....	7
Pick-Up Day, Shows, and Open House.....	8
Departure.....	8
Session Break.....	8
Preparing for the Time of Their Life.....	9
Music and Instruments.....	10
What Not to Bring.....	11
A Typical Day at Camp.....	11
The Week at a Glance.....	11
Classes.....	12
Adjusting to Summer Camp.....	12
Preparing for Independence at Camp.....	13
Communication.....	13
Community Expectations & Restorative Processes.....	15
Health and Safety.....	15
Camp Life.....	17
Staff.....	17
Meals.....	17
Camp Store.....	17
The Facility.....	18
Lodging and Tipi Assignments.....	18
Birthdays at Camp.....	19
Program Evaluation / Contact After Camp.....	19
What to Bring Checklist / Packing List.....	20

American Camp Association Accreditation

Camp Winnarainbow is accredited by the [American Camp Association \(ACA\)](#). Our program, operations, and facility undergo rigorous 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. Our last accreditation visit was in 2024, and each year we are required to complete an annual accreditation report that attests to our continued compliance with ACA requirements and describes our ongoing process of policy review, reflection, and improvement.



Camp Winnarainbow Philosophy

Philosophy

Camp Winnarainbow creates a joyful environment where children from all backgrounds develop community, confidence, and self-expression through circus and performing arts.

Vision

We inspire kids to become engaged, resilient citizens of the world, who act with compassion and a sense of humor, and create positive change by putting their good where it will do the most.

Values – What Guides Our Work

Creative Expression & Youth Voice (“The Show-Show & The Life Show”) We believe that the performing arts and creative expression offer a safe testing ground for skills that serve young people throughout the rest of their lives. Our philosophy emphasizes taking risks in a physically and emotionally safe environment (“The Show-Show”), to prepare campers with the voice, confidence and agility to navigate the complexity of their daily lives (“The Life Show”).

Belonging & Community Camp Winnarainbow strives to provide a safe space of belonging for children from all communities. Many of the strengths of our program are brought to us by brilliant Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian American, Pacific Islander, Queer, and Trans community members. We are committed to equity, anti-racism, and responsible stewardship of our natural environment as ongoing practices of our community, staff, and leadership.

Humor & Big Fun Camp Winnarainbow uses humor and joy to build community and tell our stories. Our well-trained staff teach timing, balance, and, as founder Wavy Gravy says, “Survival in the 21st century, or, how to duck with a sense of humor and a dollop of compassion.” We believe that laughter is a great connector, and that all children deserve to have big fun.

Love & Empathy We believe in “three tries in the circus.” Working through mistakes and challenges in an accepting, loving environment builds resilience and empathy. Using community tools like check-ins, tipi-time, and restorative justice circles, we encourage children and adults to weave webs of connection that can withstand and repair mistakes, harm, and conflict.

Arrival 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 the registration process or contact the office for more details).

Camper Drop-Off at Camp in Laytonville

Plan to arrive on Monday (the first day of your Camper's session) between 3:00 pm and 4:30 pm.

(NOTE: We have shortened the arrival window and now ask families to arrive by 4:30pm – this will help improve the flow of the first day. Thank you!) Your Camper's counselors and teen staff will be waiting to greet you and help them get settled into Camp. ***Do not arrive early on the first day. The Camp facility is not open to families before 3:00pm and the parking lot is a very hot place to wait around.*** If you are running late, please call, so we can be prepared to greet you.

NO PETS are allowed at Camp (except service dogs trained to perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability – emotional support, comfort or companion animals are not considered service animals). Please keep your pets at home. There are no shaded parking areas and vehicles get extremely hot. **DO NOT BRING YOUR PETS TO CAMP!**

There are three stations when you first enter Camp: the check-in table, lice check, and medical check-in. There may be lines at any of these depending on how many families show up at the same time. We thank you in advance for your patience. If you have arranged for a check-in with a Camper Advocate or MESH (Mental, Emotional, and Social Health) Lead regarding a care or safety plan, please ask to check in with them during step 1 (at the check-in table).

All family members should bring a full water bottle to Camp - we want everyone to stay hydrated!

Families should plan ahead on how to say goodbye to their Camper. Counselors will help anyone who might be feeling sad or nervous. See our guidance on "Adjusting to Summer Camp" below for specific tips on how to prepare. The arrival window concludes at 4:30pm, and then Camp begins! We start with a tour of camp and an all-community dinner circle (where we sing songs and share information about safety, key rules, what the first day at Camp will look like, etc.).

Important Note About Forms

Camp Winnarainbow uses secure CampBrain software for all enrollment processes and form collection for Campers. We ask that all forms be completed by May 15th. Our forms allow you to indicate dietary preferences, request housing assignments, provide important medical and mental health information, and tell the counselors how your Camper is feeling about going to Camp. Our staff carefully review the forms for every Camper in our care.

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. We seek to join forces with you, the parents and guardians of our Campers, in fostering an environment that prioritizes their holistic well-being. To this end, we have a form on [the parent portal](#), designed to offer insights into your child's MESH background. Completing this crucial form enables our staff to support your Camper's experience and build 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.

This is a gentle reminder that Camp Winnarainbow is not able to provide mental health services or treatment. Campers who start, stop, or change psychiatric medications within 3 months prior to Camp, or who have been hospitalized for mental health treatment within 3 months prior to Camp, or who are actively engaged in self harm or experiencing suicidal ideation or an active eating disorder require a level of support and monitoring that Camp Winnarainbow is not able to provide. If any of these situations apply to your Camper, you must let us know. We also note that we do not guarantee a sharps-free environment due to the nature of our programming and some of the materials onsite.

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 cannot accept a child into Camp who has lice or nits; every child must be lice and nit free prior to entry. A lice check is required at check-in at Camp and also before boarding the bus in Berkeley.

Children with any sign of head lice, even nits that appear dead/treated, will not be allowed in Camp until all nits have been removed. If your child is found to have lice or nits upon arrival (or if lice or nits are discovered during Camp), we require that your child be treated with topical ivermectin (the cream, not the pills) in order to remain in Camp. In most cases, we anticipate that we can provide ivermectin treatment at Camp, but we will contact you prior to treatment. If you do not consent to treatment with ivermectin, your Camper will not be allowed to remain in Camp, and no refund will be issued. We use ivermectin because of its ability to kill both lice and nits with high levels of reliability - we are not currently accepting other forms of treatment for children who wish to stay in Camp.

To prevent the spread of lice, campers may not share combs, brushes, hair ties, head/hair scarves, hair accessories, hats, or hooded sweatshirts while at Camp. This drastically reduces the likelihood of lice transmission, and we appreciate your support in ensuring that your Camper understands this rule.

Directions to Laytonville

Driving north from the San Francisco Bay Area:

Plan on a 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 arrival area.

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 arrival area.

Bus From Berkeley

If you are unable to drive your Camper to Camp, a ONE-WAY school 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! We will send more information via email directly to families that are registered for the bus, but here is some key info in the meantime.

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 12:30pm from Live Oak Park in Berkeley.
- Live Oak Park is located at the intersection of Berryman Street and Shattuck Avenue in Berkeley.
- What to bring: luggage, a full water bottle, and a nut-free lunch for the ride. You must deliver any medications to the nurse at bus check in (in original prescription bottles or over-the-counter packaging, NOT in a pill organizer). Please keep any meds separately outside of Camper's luggage for easy transfer. See below (pages 9-10) 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, are found, your Camper will not be allowed on the bus. See more details on lice above.
- Please remind Campers to use the nearby restroom before boarding the bus.
- In the event of any emergency, the Camp Director will be in contact with all parents/guardians.
- We attempt to send an arrival confirmation email as soon as the bus arrives at Camp, but because arrival day is so busy, that email sometimes goes out late!

Pick-Up Day, Shows, and Open House

On the last day of each session (always a Saturday), we have an Open House (for Session A), a Big Show (for Sessions B and C), and a Mini Show (for Session D). This is when your Camper can show you around Camp and share what they learned. Doors open at 2:00pm every session, with the Big Shows and Mini Show beginning at 2:15pm for Sessions B, C, and D.

- **Session A: Open House** (Camp open 2:00-4:45pm)
- **Session B: Big Show** (Camp open 2:00-4:45pm, show starts at 2:15)
- **Session C: Big Show** (Camp open 2:00-4:45pm, show starts at 2:15)
- **Session D: Mini Show** (Camp open 2:00-4:45pm, show starts at 2:15)

Please bring water bottles and dress for heat!

We aim to conclude the open house and all shows by 4:30pm. Camp closes to all visitors approximately 15 minutes after our shows conclude. We heard the family feedback about needing to communicate this timing earlier and ensure that shows end on time. We hope this info is helpful and we are working hard to ensure shows end on time this summer. Thank you!

Departure

Campers will generally be ready to leave by 4:45pm on the last day of Camp. There is no camping at our facility. 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 any end-of-session 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. Session breaks are relaxed times, staffed by current counselors, and they generally range from 5-15 campers. Session break campers will have their laundry done during the break.

Preparing for the Time of Their Life!

What to Bring (an itemized packing list can be found at the end of this Handbook)

Luggage

Please limit 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 receive a sleeping mat. An indoor 'sleepover' bag is not warm enough for Camp.

Clothing (LOVE IT? LABEL IT.)

Bring enough comfortable clothing to last **all** days of the Camp session. A detailed packing list can be found at the end of this document and on [our website](#). Camp 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 ensure that clothing does not depict violence, alcohol/drugs, or scary or horrifying imagery. Thanks for helping us create a fun and inclusive space for everyone!

We support Campers in dressing appropriately for the weather. Our entire program takes place outdoors, and there are no indoor, air-conditioned areas to cool down during hot weather. Make sure your Camper packs lightweight clothing suitable for warm temperatures. If a Camper is wearing clothing that is too warm for the conditions (such as sweatshirts, long sleeves, or heavy pants), staff will ask them to change into cooler clothing for safety and comfort. If your Camper wears full-coverage clothing for religious or other personal reasons, please check in with us in advance so we can plan to support both their needs and their safety in hot weather.

We cannot emphasize this enough: Please label everything your Camper is bringing with their first and last name. We have a robust lost and found program, but it is often impossible to reunite people with their belongings if things are not labeled. If you love it, label it!

Laundry

For two-week sessions, we will wash all of your Camper's socks and underwear and at least five items of clothing at some time mid-session. If there is a bathroom accident or other urgent need, we will wash clothing/bedding as well. 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 upon arrival. 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 them with their rescue inhaler. Also be sure to upload a copy of their Asthma Action Plan (developed with their primary care provider or pulmonologist) to our paperwork portal. Blank forms can be found in the portal and at <https://www.aafa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/asthma-action-plan-aafa.pdf>.

Lost and Found

Campers sometimes 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 full name on everything! Check through the Lost and Found before you leave Camp. If you arrive home and are missing something important, we will check the Lost and Found leftovers and try to assist you. All items we cannot identify will be donated to Camp's clothing reserves or to charity within a few days of the end of each session.

Cell Phone Policy

There is no Camp phone available for Camper use, and we highly encourage Campers to leave cell phones at home. Beginning in 2026, Campers are not permitted to use cell phones at Camp, even as cameras or music players. We previously permitted the use of cell phones for these limited purposes, but usage too frequently drifted to gaming, scrolling, and other activities.

A Camper found using their phone will receive one reminder to turn it off and put it away. After the first reminder, the phone will be confiscated and kept in the office until pick-up day. If phones are brought to Camp, it is at your own risk. We are not responsible for any damaged or stolen phones.

Being screen-free is a huge part of what makes Camp so wonderful – this may be one of the rare opportunities your child has to be away from screen time. If your Camper says they want their phone to take pictures or listen to music, please send them with a camera and/or a personal musical device.

Music and Instruments

If Campers bring music to share or play, it must be appropriate for all ages, including 7-year-olds. Explicit versions of songs are not appropriate. We find that even the clean versions of well-known songs often get accompanied by people singing the original lyrics – this is just to say, we are always working on this with our community! We love it when Campers play musical instruments at Camp, but unfortunately we do not have good storage for instruments, so bring them at your own risk.

What Not to Bring

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

- electronics (except cameras/music players)
- walkie-talkies
- matches, lighters, or fire-making devices
(*NO magnifying glasses or glass bottles*)
- firecrackers, fireworks or explosives
- weapons (including pocket knives)
- cigarettes, including smokeless devices and vapes
- cash or valuables
- irreplaceable or very sentimental items
- drugs or alcohol
- pornography
- food, snacks, gum (unless pre-arranged)
- pets

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 (with many optional activities)
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

Bedtime at Camp can sometimes be later than young children are used to. We encourage anyone needing an earlier bedtime to leave the day’s evening program early, get ready for bed, and tuck in for the day. Many Campers choose this option — they just need to let their counselor know first!

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
Check-In 3pm-4:30pm Orientation	Community Guidelines	Full Morning of Classes!	Regular Day Schedule	Regular Day Schedule	Pillow Fight Tipi Clean Up
1st Dinner Circle Tipi Skit Night	First Class! Teacher Talent	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
Check-In 3pm-4:30pm Orientation	Community Guidelines First Class!	Full Morning of Classes	Regular Day Schedule	Regular Day Schedule	All Peoples Day	Sleep-in Sunday!
1st Dinner Circle 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	
Regular Day Schedule	Regular Day Schedule	Regular Day Schedule	Regular Day Schedule	Rehearsal Day All Day	Pillow Fight 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 to camp (especially for the first time) also entails adjustment for children and families. Coming to Camp may cause feelings of homesickness. This is a normal, healthy occurrence for youth. Facing homesickness teaches many skills, and your Camper will not be alone! We understand this and are here to support you and your Camper.

We ENCOURAGE You to Say:	We DISCOURAGE You from Saying:
Being homesick is a normal feeling, and Camp has lots of ways to help you through it.	I'll pick you up if you get homesick.
It's okay for us to miss each other. I know you are going to have a great time even if you miss me.	I'll pick you up right away if you want me to.
It's okay to feel nervous - lots of people at Camp will help you get settled.	You just have to try it for a day (or a few days) to see if you like it.
Your counselors and the people in charge can contact me if they need to.	You can call me anytime you want.

Please feel free to contact the Camp office by phone or email to ask any questions you might have.

You know your Camper best, and Camp Winnarainbow honors the story of every Camper. Our staff review everything you share in your registration paperwork. We use this information to develop strategies for supporting your Camper at Camp.

Another opportunity for you to help us learn your Camper's story is at drop-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 speak with Camp personnel about any specifics. They will relay that information to the counselors at Camp. For bus dropoff, we also recommend sending additional information via email *before* your Camper's session starts.

Preparing for Independence at Camp

One way to help your Camper prepare is to ensure they can do the following things independently (for older Campers, this list may be no problem; for younger ones, it can be good to confirm and practice):

- brushing their teeth and washing their face
- selecting and putting on weather-appropriate clothing
- washing hands thoroughly with soap and water
- filling their water bottle and drinking water throughout the day
(*getting in the habit of hydrating at home can help campers adjust to Camp's warm weather*)
- adjusting the temperature of water in the shower
- checking their body from head to toe (to check for ticks - we teach this at Camp each session!)
- brushing, combing, or caring for their hair
- applying sunscreen to their face
- putting dirty clothes into a designated bag inside their duffel

While our counselors and teen staff are always available to help those who need support (and almost all Campers do need support at various points), mastery of these tasks helps Campers thrive. In our pre-camp forms, we ask about any support your camper may need around hygiene, skin/hair care, and self-care. We expect and are prepared to support a wide range of needs, routines, and practices.

Communication

We know that staying in touch with your child is important. This section outlines a few options for communicating. **We do not have visiting days, and Campers do not have access to our office phones to contact you.** At the start of each session, we invite families to a shared photo album, where pictures are added throughout the session. We are not able to upload photos every day - we appreciate your understanding. Camp also maintains a daily (or almost daily!) blog that covers goings-on at a high level - it's a nice way to follow our adventures and have things to ask your Camper about when they're home.

We will always call you if your Camper is having a concerning issue, such as a medical issue, prolonged

homesickness, or a safety concern (or if your Camper is asking to talk to you about a personal issue they do not want to address with us). To request a check-in on your Camper or to let us know of a specific concern, call our office at (707) 984-6507. We will 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.

Email

You can send an email note to your Camper at campermail@campwinnarainbow.org. We will print it and deliver it with other Camp mail – *do not include photos as our printers cannot accommodate them*. Emails that arrive before 10am are delivered that day. Emails received later are delivered the following day. Due to the volume of emails, we are unable to confirm receipt or delivery of individual emails.

Letters

You can mail your child a letter (early on to ensure delivery) or leave one (or a few) with our team on the first day of Camp to be distributed throughout the session. See our addresses below.

Care Packages

We are not able to securely store care packages, so do not send high-value items. If you want to send a package (or leave one with us on arrival day) please send only one per Camper per session. Make sure it contains only items allowed at Camp. We inspect all Camper packages and remove prohibited items.

Beginning in 2026, we no longer permit food of any kind (or gum) in care packages. You can send magazines, books, chapstick, small activities for free time (e.g., embroidery thread for friendship bracelets, a Rubik's cube, Mad Libs, Magic Cards). We remove food/gum and any prohibited items.

<i>Letters or Packages through the USPS:</i> CAMPER NAME (ANY NICKNAME) & SESSION(S) CAMP WINNARAINBOW PO BOX 1359 LAYTONVILLE, CA 95454	<i>UPS or FedEx - use our street address:</i> CAMPER NAME (ANY NICKNAME) & SESSION(S) CAMP WINNARAINBOW 50350 NORTH HIGHWAY 101 LAYTONVILLE, CA 95454
--	---

Addressing Mail: Specifying first and last name AND nickname (as well as session) helps ensure mail gets to your camper! Example: Amos Blacksmith (Zip-Zap) – Sessions C and D.

Mail Delays: Please note that it often takes 2 business days beyond an estimated or confirmed delivery date for mail to reach a Camper - this results from mail getting sorted to our P.O. box after pickup hours and also from our need to screen packages once we have picked them up.

Community Expectations & Restorative Processes

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 people from all walks of life, identities, socio-economic statuses, and 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. 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 at Camp's sole discretion, 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. There is at least one 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 Camp. All of our instructors are experienced in teaching children, and they employ appropriate and certified safety techniques. However, as stated in our enrollment application, some of the skills we teach—such as acrobatics, stilt-walking, aerials and unicycling—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 arrival. This can be done via the forms.

The Camper Medical Form (and all other forms and paperwork) must be completed by May 15th. If your child has special medications or if there are special instructions regarding their health, note this on the health form. If your Camper has a complex medical history, please contact the office as soon as possible, so we can plan to support your Camper and ensure that we are able to do so.

Please also be sure to review the section on medications and asthma care above (begins on page 9).

The 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.

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 or hospital, we will contact you and follow your wishes for the care of your child. (In the event of a medical emergency, our priority will be to ensure your child receives immediate care, and we will contact you as soon as possible.) 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.

Hot weather is common at Camp. It's not unusual for our medical team to field issues related to dehydration (including headaches, sore throats, and general fatigue). We encourage Campers to drink water regularly throughout the day and at meals. However, children who arrive at Camp already in the habit of drinking water frequently tend to do better in the heat. Practicing good hydration before arriving at Camp can help prevent heat-related illness.

Notify us if you take an out-of-area trip or will be at another phone number while your child is at Camp. **It is extremely important that we be able to contact you while your child is in our care; it is also critical that you or a designated emergency contact be able to pick up your Camper within 24-hours in the event of an emergency.**

A note about bugs! We have mosquitoes, bees, wasps, and spiders at Camp. We do our best to coexist with them, and we work with many campers who feel nervous about this. It may be helpful to let Campers know that bugs are something to expect at Camp. Ticks are also active in Northern California, and people at Camp sometimes find ticks on themselves (although the peak season is typically over by the time Camp begins). We encourage everyone to check their bodies every day, and instructions for tick checks are posted in each of our shower stalls (which include a full-length mirror to assist with the checks). At the beginning of each session, we present information about ticks and tick-checks, and any Camper discovering a tick on their body is instructed to see our medical team right away.

Staff are trained to keep all Campers safe during an emergency. Camp has written emergency plans that are updated annually. Camp administrators attend local emergency preparedness meetings and coordinate plans with local authorities. We are grateful to be connected to numerous emergency personnel and organizations in our area, many of whom have advised us on our policies. In the event of an emergency affecting all of Camp, we will contact families by email. We have staff on- and offsite that can communicate with families if such a situation arises, and we have emergency equipment (such as satellite phones and backup generators) to assist with ongoing communication.

Camp Life

Staff

At Camp Winnarainbow, we have a large, carefully selected staff of adult counselors and professional performing artists. We perform background checks 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 range of ages. Staff are asked to attend an extensive training before each summer season. Nearly all of our adult and teen staff are former Campers and many received training for years as youth leaders at Camp Winnarainbow. We have a very high return rate of our adult staff each year, and an adult staff-to-camper ratio of 1:3 or better.

Meals

Meals are an important part of Camp life. We cook our meals from scratch using the best ingredients available (including many from an organic farm right onsite). We serve meals family-style in our beautiful outdoor dining area. Tipi groups will take turns doing the dishes for the community. We serve three meals each day. There is also pre-breakfast cocoa for early-risers, an afternoon snack, and a daily “store order” (more info below). We encourage Campers to drink plenty of water at each meal.

We design meals for young people's tastes and nutrition. We do our best to accommodate special diets, but these should be discussed in advance if a special food plan is needed. We can accommodate vegetarian, vegan, dairy-free, and gluten-free diets. We have limited ability to accommodate other food preferences. Due to the risk of cross-contamination in our kitchen and dining facilities, we are not able to safely support campers with celiac disease or severe food allergies (aside from nut allergies), as we cannot guarantee an allergen-free environment. Dietary needs should be indicated consistently in two places: on the medical form and on the camper information form completed by parents/guardians.

Please speak with your Camper and their counselor on arrival 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 desires.

Camp Store

Providing money for your Camper to use at the Camp store is done via the [Parent Portal](#). The store sells drinks, candy, and chips. Campers place orders in the evenings, and “Store Order” snacks are delivered during the afternoon the next day. Based on recent data, we recommend a deposit of \$26 for 1-week sessions and \$65 for 2-week sessions. Please do not send cash with your Camper. Any money left over

after a Camper departs is donated to Camp's scholarship fund, if not withdrawn.

The Camp Merch Booth will also be open on the first and last day of each session, so families can purchase merchandise. Proceeds also go directly to support Camp's Financial Aid/Scholarship Fund.

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 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 lighting 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 hot during the day and cold 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. Comfortable sleeping mats are provided for each Camper. We group Campers by age and by their housing preference (boys, girls, or gender-inclusive) indicated on the camper information form completed by parents/guardians. If you are interested in learning more about our gender-inclusive housing option, please reach out to the office - we are happy to speak with you or to connect you with families and/or staff that have experience in our gender-inclusive tipis. Each tipi will have at least two adult staff assigned to it and one or two teen staff.

NOTE: Tipi placements are done before Camp begins. Use the camper information form completed by parents/guardians to let us know if your Camper wishes to be housed with a friend or family member (as noted on the forms, the tipi request question is the *only* place where requests can be made - do not make requests in other places). We cannot accommodate new requests made upon arrival at Camp.

If you are requesting that your child be in a tipi with a friend, we *highly recommend* having a conversation with that family before Camp to confirm that the request is mutual. Families sometimes request that their Camper *not* be housed with another Camper, and it can put us in a difficult situation if we cannot disclose that information to the other family. We encourage families to have direct conversations about this wherever possible - it is very common for kids to want a chance to make new friends, even when a great friend is coming to Camp with them.

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.

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 depending on the Camper's comfort level. You are welcome to send or leave a birthday care package – following the care package guidelines noted above (including that no food is allowed) – and we'll make sure your 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 a feedback 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 the 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 contact Campers outside of Camp (except where there is a preexisting relationship with that family). This includes a prohibition against following minor Campers or Teen Staff—or having minor Campers or Teen Staff follow them—on any social media. We appreciate your understanding (especially in a world where social media is always changing and evolving).

If your Camper has social media, please make sure they are aware of this policy. Many of our staff members are professional performers outside of Camp and maintain public social media accounts with large followings. They are not always able to review followers on an individual basis. You can help us support them by ensuring Campers understand our "no contact in the off-season" rule.

What to Bring Checklist / Packing List

LABEL EVERYTHING WITH FIRST AND LAST NAME. Pack into a duffel bag, not a hard-shell suitcase.

Camp Stuff

- warm sleeping bag (it gets cold at night) - PLEASE LABEL WITH CAMPER NAME IF POSSIBLE
- pillow
- water bottle (NOT glass) - MUST BE LABELED WITH FULL NAME (decorations are great - name still required)
- 2 towels (one for showering, one for swimming) - PLEASE LABEL WITH CAMPER NAME IF POSSIBLE
- washcloth
- flashlight (w/extra batteries)
- bag for dirty laundry (an extra pillow case can work just fine)

Clothes (LABEL EVERYTHING WITH FIRST AND LAST NAME)

- shorts
- long pants (jeans and/or sweatpants – a must for cold mornings/evenings)
 - jeans/sweats are great for stilts, and leggings/not-too-baggy sweats are great for aerials
- t-shirts, tank tops and casual clothing suited to hot days (see note on page 9 about appropriate content)
- long sleeves
- a jacket, sweatshirt or sweater for cool evenings
- warm pajamas
- socks & underwear (enough for every day of the session)
- one warm hat and one sun hat
- swim suit (goggles if desired)
- two sets of footwear: (1) a pair of sandals, and (2) a pair of closed-toed, sturdy shoes for stiling/unicycling
- shower sandals (if the sandals above are not well suited to going in the shower)
- raincoat (rain is unlikely, but possible)

Toiletries

- toothpaste & toothbrush
- soap
- shampoo & conditioner
- other needed hair care products
- deodorant, if desired
- hairbrush / comb & hair ties
- sunblock & chapstick
- lotion
- insect repellent
- glasses/contacts if needed
- toiletry bag for above items

Optional:

- pre-addressed stationery and stamps
- earplugs (if your child is a light sleeper)
- digital or disposable camera (NO CELL PHONES)
- music player (NO CELL PHONES)
- a book to read, a deck of cards, etc.
 - *we ask that books with mature themes not be shared with or lent to other campers
- menstrual products (if needed)
 - *it's not uncommon for cycles to shift at Camp
- stuffed animal/small blanket
- bandana
- sunglasses
- a handheld mister/fan can be nice on a hot day