

Camp Ravencliff



SUMMER 2008 INFORMATION PACKET AUGUST 16-22, 2008

All the needed forms are in this packet and can be turned in at the City of El Cerrito Community Center Office. Please fill these out and turn in with your payment as early as possible to save your space for camp!

Camp Ravencliff is located in the heart of redwood country approximately 200 miles north of San Francisco. The camp occupies a beautiful meadow and wooded hillside on the banks of the Eel River near the small town of Redway off of highway 101. The camp itself has 10 cabins, a large main lodge, a fully stocked Arts & Crafts Cabin, a functional Nurse's Cabin/Infirmary, and additional support buildings. Camp Ravencliff's unique setting gives a feeling of serene isolation, yet the camp is very close to town services in Redway and nearby Garberville, including a clinic and a hospital with a 24-hour emergency room.





CAMP IS...

...a safe and nurturing environment for children. Youths are at less risk when they have a sense of community, intergenerational relationships, and first-hand experiences. Our trained, caring adult role models help children feel loved, capable and included. This sort of supervised, positive environment with controlled boundaries helps children grow.

... a caring community. Intergenerational relationships encourage a sense of contribution, cooperation, commitment, and compassion. Opportunities abound for children to experience belonging and accept responsibility in a true community – getting along with others, accepting differences, and working together. Appreciation and respect for others and all living things are the underpinning of quality camp experiences. The joys of acceptance and sharing prompt children to try out new positive behaviors -choose new partners, express caring thoughts about others, and resolve conflicts.

...a vital element in a child's education. Discovery, exploration, and active participation are the methods of learning at camp. Youths connect with the natural world directly and not through the pre-chewed filters of computers, television, or movie screens. Children practice growing up by taking healthy risks and stepping beyond their comfort zones. Children build character, becoming more competent and more caring. Youths learn best by experiencing; this camp helps to fill the gaps that exist beyond academic instruction. Children develop emotional and social skills that complement their intellectual competencies.

...for everyone. Every youth deserves a camp experience, and the City of El Cerrito is committed to making this a reality by providing scholarships. Camp can serve almost any interest, ability, budget, age, and personal schedule.

...fun. Camp is an environment built specifically for youths. Campers learn to invent themselves through enjoyable activities. Fun is the foundation upon which courage and self-respect, cooperation and responsibility are constructed.

Adapted from an article in the American Camping Association's Camping Magazine.

CAMPERS

Camp Ravencliff accommodates around 80 boys and girls ages 7-14. Campers live in cabins with an adult counselor and a counselors-in-training (below). Campers are assigned to cabins by gender, age, and “cabinmate” requests.

TEEN PROGRAMS

We offer two programs for eighteen teens who have completed their freshman year of high through entering seniors of high school. The **TILT** (Teen in Leadership Training) Program will consist of ten selected teens that will focus on various projects throughout camp including assisting counselors during activity times and rocking out in the kitchen while washing the pots and pans! The TILTs will live as a group in their own cabin and will have an overnighiter away from camp as well. The **CIT** (Counselors-In-Training) Program has five female and five male teens that will live in the cabins, assist the counselors with cabin activities as well as perform other support functions. The Ravencliff Teen Program's mission emphasizes teamwork, group dynamics, and personal growth. The Teen Directors, who will be meeting with them several times throughout each day, will supervise the teen groups. Due to the few teen spots available, group interviews will take place in late April or early May. Selected teens must commit to pre-camp meetings to be announced after the selection process.

STAFFING

Under the supervision of Recreation Supervisor and Camp Director Chris Jones, Camp Ravencliff will be fully staffed by 2 Assistant Directors, 10 adult counselors, a licensed caterer/cook, 5 certified lifeguards, and a Camp Nurse (RN). Additional support staff will also be present. Several staff members are certified in Standard First Aid/Safety and CPR. Staff will be assisted by counselors-in-training.

ACTIVITIES

Camp Ravencliff provides the ideal setting for exciting outdoor activities such as hiking, environmental studies, swimming, canoeing, nature study, field games, basketball, volleyball, archery, horseshoes, ropes course, campfire, “creeking”, stargazing, and much more. Ravencliff boasts a large, cool swimming hole on the Eel River, beneath the



talking cliffs". Swim lessons will be available during free time for all who want to participate. The Arts & Crafts Cabin is fully stocked with many art project ideas, emphasizing projects with natural materials from camp. In addition to this, the main lodge is full of indoor activities including billiards, foosball, ping-pong, and board games.

Camp offers a full day of fun activities and events from 7am (6:30am for Early Birds) to 10pm. The day includes two activity periods, two free swims, one free time, and cabin activities. Even during the "free times" a variety of activities are available. Finally, every night there is campfire where staff, teens, and campers perform skits, sing, dance, and tell stories for everyone's enjoyment. At the end of the week, we have our annual theme day complete with a camp carnival and dance.

Campers will also experience an overnighter, under the stars, in the backwoods of Camp Ravencliff. They will make their own meals, play outdoor games, sing songs around the campfire, bond with their cabinmates and of course have s'mores!

MEALS

Chef Lani (Castro Day Care Coordinator) has prepared a well-balanced menu for camp stay. These include 3 daily meals and an afternoon snack. Vegetarian/alternate meals will be available only to those who indicate their dietary preference on the registration forms.

MEDICATIONS

Parents, **please pack at least a two-week supply of any needed and emergency medications in their original, labeled bottles.** The Camp Nurse will distribute all medications at the appropriate times during the day. Campers are not allowed to medicate themselves or have any form of medication (prescription and over-the-counter drugs) on them during camp. If your child takes medications only during certain times of the year, please consult with your doctor and the camp nurse to determine whether or not these medications should be brought to camp just in case.

RULES

General Camp and Cabin Rules will be discussed in the cabin groups. They include safety and respect issues. **Please discuss with your child the importance of following the rules and staff directions.** All disciplinary action shall be handled at the discretion of the Camp Director. Punishments include being restricted from activities and/or work detail. Campers can be sent home at **parent/guardian expense** for violating any of the following rules:

- Bringing and/or using weapons of any kind (knives, guns, martial arts weapons, etc.)
- Engaging in sexual activity
- Using or in possession of drugs and/or alcohol
- Fighting
- Damaging/Vandalizing Property
- Other morally questionable activities as determined by the Camp Director

FEES

Campers:	Residents	\$375.00	Teen Programs:	Residents	\$150.00
	Non-Residents	\$450.00		Non-Residents	\$187.50

A non-refundable \$75.00 deposit is required to hold your camper's spot. The balance will be due on Monday, July 21, 2008. Scholarships are available, please contact us for more information.

GETTING TO AND FROM CAMP

Please arrive to the Community Center at **7:00 am sharp on Saturday, August 16th, 2008** to check your camper(s) in and load the busses. Campers will need their own lunch to take with them on the bus. Transportation time will take approximately 4 to 4.5 hours. Bus games and activities are planned and movies will be shown to fill the time. We will also start learning camp songs on the bus. **Buses will return to the Community Center between 8 and 8:30pm on Friday, August 22nd.**

EL CERRITO CAMP RAVENCLIFF 2008

- Saturday, August 16 to Friday, August 22, 2008.
- Registration is open for boys and girls ages 7-14 and teens entering 10th thru 12th grades.
- Registration forms are available at the El Cerrito Community Center or online at www.el-cerrito.org/recreation.
- Please call 510-559-7000 or email cjones@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us for more information.



FAMILY INFORMATION NIGHT

Want to see if overnight camp is a good option for your child? Come to the Family Information Night at the El Cerrito Senior Center (6500 Stockton Ave. behind the El Cerrito Library) on Thursday, July 10, 2008 from 6:30 – 8pm. Parents/Guardians and Campers are all welcome. We will be discussing our resident camp program, viewing a slideshow from past years' camps, and answering questions.