



Camp Wildcraft Parent Handbook 2025

King Gillette Ranch, 26800 Mulholland Hwy, Calabasas, CA 91302

Dear Summer 2025 Parents,

Welcome to Camp Wildcraft! In this Parent Handbook we have included lots of information to help you prepare for and navigate summer at Camp Wildcraft. If you have any questions along the way our staff contact information is below. We are excited to have your kids at camp this summer for our 10th season of Camp Wildcraft.

Thank you for being a part of our camp community!

Shari and Benny, Camp Co-Founders/Directors

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION:

King Gillette CALABASAS SITE DIRECTORS:

Shari Davis: Cell Phone: 818-489-3862

Benny Ferdman: Cell Phone: 818-497-1607

Camp Registrar/Administrator:

Please email Ambar Cruz with questions about registration, session changes, payments, after care and other options, etc. hello@campwildcraft.com

If urgent Ambar's Cell: 818-617-8994

KING GILLETTE CAMPUS ADDRESS: 26800 Mulholland Hwy, Calabasas

CAMP HOURS

HOURS: Regular camp hours are 9:00-3:00. You can drop your child(ren) off starting at 8:30am and pick up at 3:00pm.

AFTER CARE: If you signed up in advance for After Care, pickup is at 4pm. If need be, you can add after-care hours by the day [in the registration system](#). If adding aftercare the week your camper is already in camp, or need last minute after-care, please text Shari so we can add your kids to the existing after care roster. If you need help signing up or making changes please contact Ambar. As campers are pretty tired after a regular day at camp, we suggest using after-care only if needed.

HOW TO ADD OPTIONS IN REGISTRATION SYSTEM

To add camp gear + after care after you register:

1. [Log into your account](#)
2. Click on **MY RESERVATIONS** and click any registered session
3. See **"OPTIONS"** on the left and **EDIT** box on the right--click **EDIT** and select your option to add
4. Click through to the payment page and complete payment OR if on monthly installments, it will be added to the balance.

CAMP DROP OFF & PICKUP

DROP OFF

- Enter KGR at the gate on Mulholland, proceed very slowly, 15 mph, down the road.
- Follow signs to park in Camp Parking Lot in the field to the left of the road, OPPOSITE THE VISITORS CENTER LOT. (Please do not park in the Visitors Center Parking Lot). Park within the cones, following the lines. Be careful to not block the entrance or other cars.
- After parking, following the signs, walk your camper(s) over the little bridge to the "Wildcraft Meadow" where you will see our check in table and welcoming staff:)
- Please be patient while waiting in line to check in, especially on Mondays when campers get a name tag.
- After checking in, campers will be greeted by our Guides and shown where to bring their lunch and backpacks as they head to morning activities.

PICK-UP

- Park in the same lot.
- Walk over to the check-in table to check your camper out (**we make sure everyone picking up is on your authorized pickup list**)
- When our camp Closing Circle is over, we will walkie talkie you campers over to the check out area. **Please remain in the designated area while we are finishing our Closing Circle so campers are not distracted.** Campers are not allowed to leave until they are signed out and called.
- Please check that your camper(s) have all their belongings.

CAMP T-SHIRT PICKUP ON MONDAY

All campers receive a Camp Wildcraft t-shirt at pickup on Monday. Please choose your size at the Pickup table. If you ordered a camp hat, hoodie, and/or extra shirt, please pick up Monday as well.

Camp gear can be purchased on the spot as well. Camp Hats are \$20, Green Hoodies are \$25, extra T-Shirts are \$12 (we have adult t-shirts too:) Venmo code will be available or we will charge the account on file.

AUTHORIZED PICKUP

Please be sure to add all people allowed to pick up your child(ren) to your Authorized Pickup Form (on your online Account). We will not release your child to anyone not on the form. **If there is a last minute change you must call or text Shari at 818-489-3862**

EARLY PICKUP/LATE DROP OFF

If there is a time you need to drop off later than 9:30am or pickup earlier than 3:00 **please inform the Guides at drop off or call/text Shari.** As we are in different parts of the site we need to coordinate this in advance.

HEALTH & SAFETY

To avoid spreading sickness at camp: Please keep your child home if they are showing signs of illness including temperature above 100.4, throwing up, serious stomach, respiratory symptoms symptoms. **Call or text Shari at 818-489-3862 if your child will be staying home from camp or if you have any questions about this.**

CAMPER HAPPINESS:

We want your child to have a fun, creative, adventurous and growthful experience at Camp Wildcraft. Feeling connected to other campers, and to our Guides, is an important part of summer camp. *If your child needs extra support with this during, or any other aspect of camp, please reach out to us so we can discuss ways to make this easier for your camper.*

OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL JUNIOR GUIDES

All campers entering 6th through 8th grade are part of our Junior Guide program. In addition to participating in all Wildcraft programs, Junior Guides are mentored by our team to identify and channel their strengths and interests. Junior Guides build leadership skills by developing and leading special projects and programs for all our campers. As part of a Junior Guide cohort, they connect with other campers their age.

WHAT TO BRING AND WEAR

PLEASE WRITE YOUR CHILD'S NAME ON EVERYTHING including water bottles, lunch box, backpack, swim suit bags and towels.

LUNCH/SNACKS: Bring a **substantial** lunch in a reusable bag and a healthy, morning snack, such as energy bars, cheese sticks, yogurt, fruit, trail mix, etc. Kids will be taking snacks on hikes so don't put snacks in big containers with silverware. As yellow jackets are attracted to meat during lunch time (they are called "meat bees") please send non-meat lunches if possible. **While we are not a nut free campus, we do have campers with allergies so please remind your child there is no sharing of food.** We provide healthy afternoon snacks like watermelon and fruit juice popsicles.

BRIGHT BELLY LUNCH DELIVERY SERVICE: This summer we are providing parents with the option of using our new lunch delivery all or some days of camp. Order online through their website.

Here's how it works:

1. Click the link below and follow the directions to create an account in their system
<https://brightbellymeals.com/pages/home-delivery>
2. After you log in with initial password **bright3** you will be prompted to add all your account info and create your own password
3. On the Create User Profile page select **Camp Wildcraft**
4. **Access the menu and place your order for the days you choose**
5. ORDER CUT-OFF TIME: Orders must be in by 4am same day of service
6. Lunches will be delivered to King Gillette Ranch before lunch time.
7. **IMPORTANT: If you are ordering Bright Belly please continue to send a morning snack with your camper(s).**

PLEASE NOTE: This is the first time we are offering lunch delivery service. As you will see when you select our camp from the list, many camps and schools in our area use Bright Belly. Their menu is designed for wide appeal, they have vegan, vegetarian, gluten free and nut free options. As a (relatively) small camp, we need to have enough orders each week to continue the service with them. We'll see how it goes this summer and if our camp families like it. If you order, let me know what you think!

WATER: Send a filled, medium size water bottle each day. **Please don't send giant bottles as kids carry them while hiking.** We will refill throughout the day and kids need to be able to easily access and carry their water. **Write your child's full name on the water bottle.**

HAT: Essential each day. Bring your own or/and we have great looking Camp Wildcraft hats embroidered with our logo which can be purchased on our registration site and at pickup.

BACKPACK: Bring a **SMALL** backpack to carry the water bottle and snacks on hikes. Please write your child's name on it.

SHOES: As we will be hiking and exploring each day, closed-toed shoes and socks that cover the ankles are required. Please wear light colored socks as we do tick checks. No sandals please.

WEAR CLOTHES THAT THE KIDS CAN GET PAINT ON-- We are an art camp so kids may get messy and we don't want kids to be worried about it.

LIGHT SWEATSHIRT FOR COOL MORNINGS IF NEEDED--Dress in layers. It can be chilly in the mornings. Please write the name on the label of the sweatshirt. We have really nice forest green Camp Wildcraft Hoodies which can be purchased on our registration site and at pickup.

SUNSCREEN: Please apply at home before leaving for camp and include a small tube of your preferred sunscreen in your child's backpack. Campers will be applying their own sunscreen (we will remind them). Please instruct them on how to apply (we will assist as needed.)

SWIM SUPPLIES: Campers swim 2-3 days a week starting Week 2. On Monday send *in a separate bag clearly labeled with your camper's name:* swim suit, towel and a pair of flip flops. Use a Sharpie to write their name on everything. If needed, for younger campers, send swim vest or arm floaties (with name). We will keep the swim items at camp for the week. *We will send home their wet swimsuit and towel on the days they swim. Please send a dry suit and towel back to camp for the next swim day.*

LOST ITEMS

At pickup, please check that campers are taking home all they brought to camp. Please ask Guides to help you locate missing items. We'd like to minimize the collection of missing items we have at the end of camp!

ABOUT SWIMMING

Parents completed a swim waiver during registration which designated swim levels and if you only want your child to remain in the shallow 3' section of the pool. All campers start in the shallow end and must pass a swim test to swim in the deeper end. The swim test consists of comfortably swimming the width of the pool two times and treading water for 60 seconds. Once they pass they receive a colored wristband. *If they don't pass the first time they can try again.*

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There are no more than 24 campers in the pool at any swim session supervised by a Red Cross Certified Lifeguards and additional camp staff.

Campers change in the dressing rooms where there are some private stalls. We assist our youngest campers as needed. *Before camp, please practice taking off clothes and putting on bathing suits (and taking off wet suits) with your younger children (4-6 years olds). It will make this process a lot easier at camp :)*

BATHROOM PROCEDURES

On campus, campers tell our Guides when they need to use the bathroom and go on their own; younger campers will be accompanied by our Guides. **Please be sure your 4 and 5 year olds are able to take care of their toileting needs as we cannot physically help with that; please practice before the summer.** When hiking campers may use "nature's toilet", going in a private area behind a bush or tree. We bring toilet paper. Please discuss this with your camper if they do not have experience with this. Public bathrooms are checked before kids enter. *For our 4 and 5 year old campers, you may want to send along a change of bottoms (in their backpacks) in case of an accident during the day.* In the Wildcraft Meadow we have two flushable porta potties with sinks; we have access to bathrooms in our indoor space.

TICKS: It's summer, we're outdoors and hiking, ticks are around. While we check kids for ticks after hikes, it's possible we won't see it. Please check your camper(s) when they get home and change clothes. Have kids wear socks covering their ankles (preferably light color socks so we can see the ticks). [If you find a tick here is a resource for removing it.](#)

CELL PHONE POLICY

Camp Wildcraft is a cell phone/digital free camp for kids and middle school Junior Guides. If your child needs to bring a phone to contact you, we will ask him/her to keep it in their backpack during camp hours.

NO TOYS

Please have your child leave all toys at home; small items can get easily lost or broken and it's hard on the kids.

EMERGENCY PLANS

In case of an environmental emergency we follow our emergency plans that have been reviewed by the LA Department of Health as part of our camp permitting process. The Rangers at KGR will provide guidance in case of emergency and we receive notifications via Watch Duty. *If campers need to be picked up early at KGR, parents will be notified through an emergency text notification.* **Our evacuation sites are West of campus at Malibu Bluffs Park and East of Campus De Anza Park on Lost Hills Road in Calabasas.**

REFUND, SESSION CHANGE & CANCELLATION POLICY

- **CANCELLATION POLICY:** Until Friday, May 16th, we will provide refunds for canceled weeks, minus the \$35 registration fee. After May 16th we will not be issuing refunds.
- **SWITCHING WEEKS:** We are happy to change weeks of camp provided we receive an email request two weeks prior to the start of your registered session. *Change requests will be made for weeks where space is available.*
- **CHANGE REQUESTS:** All changes and cancellations must be made by emailing [**hello@campwildcraft.com**](mailto:hello@campwildcraft.com)
- **MISSED DAYS OF CAMP:** We cannot refund, reschedule, credit or prorate for individual missed days of camp. However if due to illness a camper misses a **full week of camp**, we will reschedule for another week where space allows.

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CAMP PHOTOS

We compile and share with families a gallery of photos from each session so you can look at them with your kids and have them tell you stories about their time at camp. We send them at the end of each session.

CAMP SURVEYS

We will be sending short surveys home so you can give us your feedback about how the week at camp went for you and your campers. Your input will help us improve camp!

OUR CAMP OUTCOMES + VALUES

Our Outcomes articulate how campers will be changed as a result of being at camp. At Camp Wildcraft we design all aspects of our program with our outcomes in mind, from our daily activities, to how to support friendships and teamwork, to how to train counselors.

As a result of spending the summer at Camp Wildcraft campers will:

- Have diverse opportunities for creative, social and emotional growth by building new skills, awareness, friendships and mentoring relationships with responsive adult staff. ● Have a greater comfort in, connection to, and responsibility towards the natural world that surrounds us.
- Develop an enduring sense of wonder, curiosity, confidence and independence nurtured by the creative arts and playful exploration of their environment.

OUR “C” WORDS IN ACTION AT CAMP

Our core camp values are intentionally fostered through our activities and relationships with the campers. We call these our “C-Words”--***Curiosity, Caring, Connection, Creativity and Confidence***. We think summer camp is the ideal place to develop and practice these characteristics and values and build emotional intelligence through ongoing conversations, coaching and modeling these values.

Each day in our Opening Circle we talk with our campers about one of our “C Words”.

Mondays: *Curiosity*

Tuesdays: *Caring*

Wednesday: *Connection*

Thursday: *Creativity*

Friday: *Confidence*

Our 4 year olds to our Middle School Junior Guides share their ideas together about how they show caring, build confidence, what they are curious about and more! We continue to build on these conversations and nurture these qualities through our camp activities, conversations and interactions.

The matrix below shows the qualities we explicitly foster and develop at Camp Wildcraft



Thank you for being a part of our Camp Wildcraft community! Please reach out if you have questions about your child's experience at camp.

connect@campwildcraft.com

Phone: 818-489-3862