



Camp Wildcraft

Art & Nature Summer Camp

@camp.wildcraft

www.campwildcraft.com

Growing curious, creative, caring & confident kids who feel at home in nature

Camp Wildcraft Parent Handbook

MUSE CALABASAS LOCATION

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. Of course, if you have any questions, at any time 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:

MUSE CALABASAS SITE DIRECTORS–

Benny Ferdman: Cell Phone: 818-497-1607

Shari Davis: Cell Phone: 818-489-3862

Camp Registrar/Administrator (Questions about registration, payments, after care and other options, schedule changes etc.):

hello@campwildcraft.com

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

MUSE CAMPUS ADDRESS:

1666 Las Virgenes Canyon Rd, Calabasas. Watch for MUSE + Camp Wildcraft signs on Las Virgenes. Turn off Las Virgenes Road onto **Las Virgenes CANYON Road**. *Please be careful turning on and off Las Virgenes Rd.* (You will pass the gate and entrance to the Hindu Temple on this road). Drive to the top of the road to the MUSE gate.

PLEASE DRIVE SLOWLY ON THE ROAD TO MUSE. This is a narrow residential street and we need to be good neighbors.

CELL SERVICE is limited near campus. You can access the wifi network **MUSE Guest**. Please copy and paste password **5unFI0w3r24!**

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 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.

CARPOOL DROP OFF

Camp staff will be at the top gate of the campus in the morning directing entry to the campus.

As the road downhill onto the campus is narrow, please proceed with care.

Please be patient especially on Mondays as we orient new families to the system.

Cars can enter the MUSE gate at 8:30am. (Cars will line up on Las Virgenes Canyon Road before the gate opens.) **DRIVE SLOWLY!**

- **Cars coming down the hill from the gate must yield to uphill traffic.** Please look for cars heading back uphill and wait at the "Yield to Uphill Traffic" sign until it is safe to continue down to the drop-off location.
- **We use a carpool system for drop off. Camp staff will meet you at your car.** They will welcome your camper(s) and sign them in.
- **To keep the carpool moving,** please have all belongings ready to go and prepare camper(s) to say goodbye and hop out of the car.
- **If your camper needs extra care separating and entering camp,** please alert our staff and they will direct you to a place to temporarily park while we greet you and your camper.
- **As you travel back up the road to the gate,** please follow the directions of the staff and be alert to cars coming down the hill.

AFTERNOON PICK UP

We have a different system for pickup to avoid traffic backing up.

- **Starting at 2:50 the gate will be open** and cars can drive down the road.
- **Park in the first available spots you see.** If these are taken, make a right at the bottom of the hill, and continue past the field to additional parking near the sports court. Follow signs and staff direction.
- **Please walk over to the staff at our check out table and wait in line to sign your camper out.** At 3pm dismissal we will call your child over to you.
- **DO NOT CALL YOUR CHILD OVER AND LEAVE BEFORE SIGNING YOUR CAMPER(S) OUT.**

- **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!

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 afternoon 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:) 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 Benny at 818- 497-1607.**

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 Benny.** As we are in different parts of the site we need to coordinate this in advance. If you arrive and the gate is closed, call or text Benny or follow directions on the callbox.

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 Benny at 818-497-1607 or 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.

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. 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.

ABOUT SWIMMING

Parents completed a swim waiver during registration which designated swim levels and if you only want your child to swim in the shallow 2' 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.* There are no more than 24 campers in the pool at any swim session supervised by a Red Cross Certified Lifeguard 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. We follow American Camp Association *Rule of 3 Guidelines*—Guides are never alone with a camper—there are either 2 campers with one Guide or 2 Guides accompanying 1 camper. *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.*

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 LA Department of Health as part of our camp permitting process. If campers need to be picked up early, 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
- **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.

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.

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