



HIDDEN VILLA

**SUMMER STAFF
WELCOME PACKET**

2021



WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE 2: TABLE OF CONTENTS
PAGE 3: WELCOME LETTER
PAGE 4: YEARROUND STAFF BIOS
PAGE 5: HIDDEN VILLA MISSION
PAGE 6: SUMMER CAMP MISSION & SCHEDULE
PAGE 7: CAMP THEMES
PAGE 8: HEALTH AND SAFETY
PAGE 9: PROGRAM GOALS
PAGE 10: OUR CAMPERS
PAGE 11: PACKING LIST
PAGE 12: PACKING LIST
PAGE 13: FAQs

WELCOME!

From Sparklefire, Summer Camp Director

On behalf of Hidden Villa's Year-Round staff I would like to officially welcome you to our team. You can expect your summer to be filled with joy, learning, challenges, and life-long friendships. Each member of our team has a wealth of life experiences, skills, and knowledge to share with our Hidden Villa community and I am so excited to get to know each and every one of you.

Our campers are eagerly awaiting another summer at the Villa to see both new and familiar faces among their peers, our camp staff, and our animal friends.

Now more than ever, our campers need a space to come together to gain independence, build friendships, learn how to support their communities, and just have fun!

I look forward to the summer of 2021, celebrating 75+ years of Hidden Villa Summer Camp. The community we create during the summer at the Villa is truly unique and I am can't wait to see the magic this group of humans creates together.

In Camp Spirit,

Sparklefire

Celebrating 76 Years!

In 1945, Josephine Duvencek started the first multi-racial residential summer camp in the United States here at Hidden Villa. Our summer camp program remains rooted in the Duvencek family legacy of social justice and environmental stewardship, bringing together a diverse group of campers and staff, unplugged from the busyness of everyday life, and giving them the unique opportunity to build a better community through shared experience.



MEET THE HIDDEN VILLA YEARROUND CAMP TEAM

Working hard to register campers, hire our seasonal team, and plan and dream of the summer sunshine and smiling camper faces!



Camp Name: Sparklefire

Summer Camp Director

Favorite Thing About Summer Camp: I love to sit down and eat meals and talk to people! Campers tell you the most fascinating things while their mouths are full of spaghetti!

Hobbies: Soccer, Earring Making, Running, YMCA Exercise Classes, Singing, Reading.

Time At Hidden Villa: 2.5 full years and 3 summer season!



Camp Name: Porcupine (or Porq)

Youth Development Manager

Favorite Things About Summer Camp: I love the opening and welcoming environment that camp creates. You can be yourself and have others celebrate you for it in a way that doesn't often happen in the other parts of life.

Hobbies: Cooking, camping, gardening, DIY Projects, spending time with animals.

Time at Hidden Villa: 14 Summers as a camper, 4 summers as seasonal camp staff, 3 years full-time!



Camp Name: Ladybug

Summer Camp Registrar/Programs Administrator

Favorite Thing About Summer Camp: Singing songs and exploring creeks for tadpoles and other lifeforms.

Hobbies: Painting, collage, dancing, road trips, visiting ghost towns, gardening, cooking, reading.

Time At Hidden Villa: 2 years



Camp Name: TBD...This could be the year we figure it out!

Camper Partnerships Support/Volunteer Coordinator

Favorite Thing About Summer Camp: The adaptable personality of certain songs. It's fun to hear a kinder or OI or F&W camper singing with the same passion:

"OH BURRITO..."

Hobbies: Cooking, dancing, running, reading, calligraphy, puns.

Time At Hidden Villa: 2 years, including one full summer season.

HIDDEN VILLA MISSION



Our mission is to foster educational experiences that build connections and inspire a deeper appreciation and respect for nature, food, and one another.

SUMMER CAMP MISSION

SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM MISSION

We develop young leaders committed to social and environmental justice and equipped with a sense of awe for natural and human beauty, tools for non-violent multicultural community building, and the confidence to make positive change in our families, communities and the world.

SUMMER TIMELINE

TWO WEEK PROGRAMS

JUNE 1-12
TRAINING

ALL STAFF TRAINING

JUNE 14-JUNE 25
CAMPERS!

SESSION 1

JUNE 29-JULY 10
CAMPERS!

SESSION 2

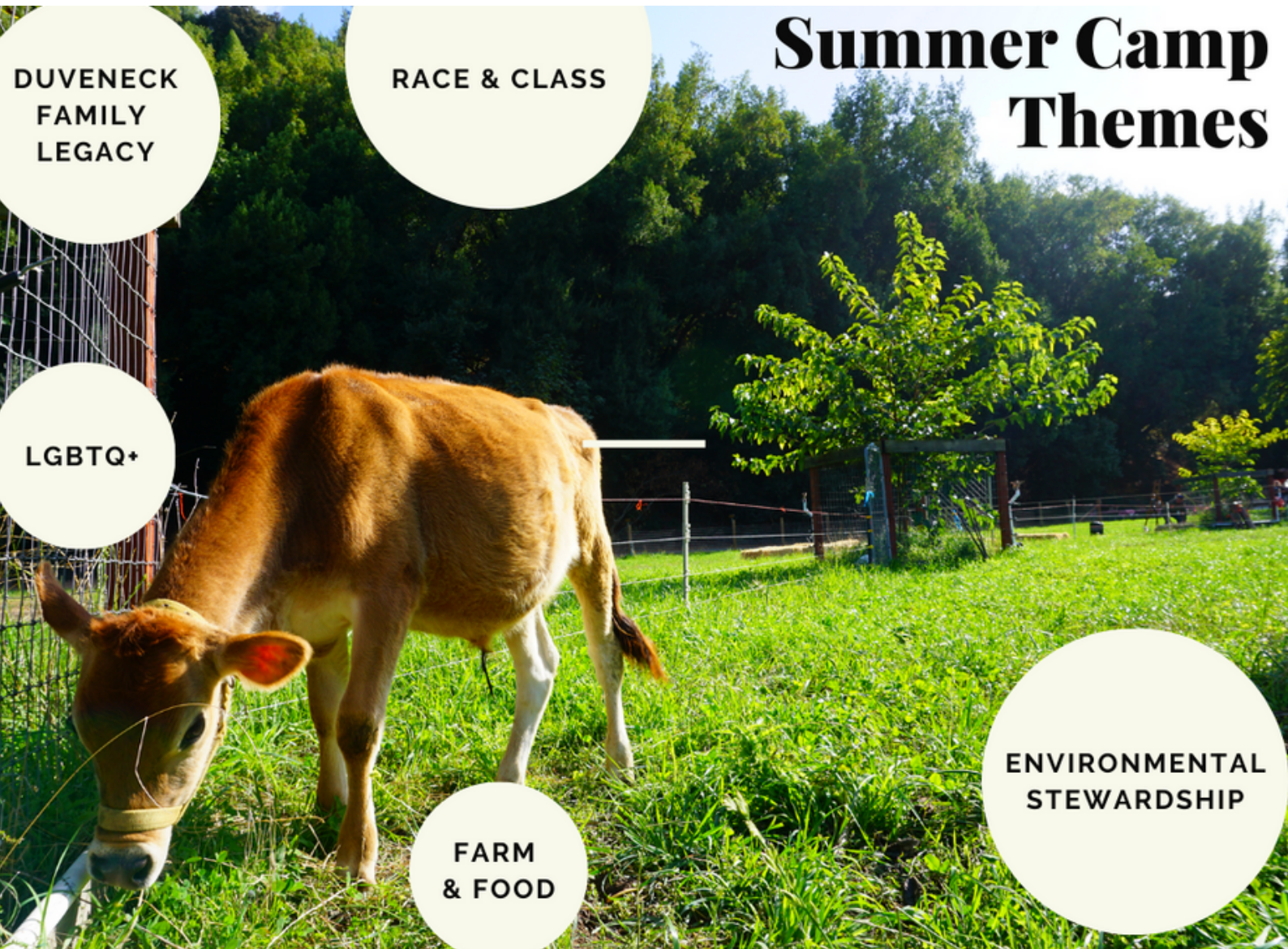
JULY 14-JULY 25
CAMPERS!

SESSION 3

JULY 28-AUGUST 8
CAMPERS!

SESSION 4





Summer Camp Themes

**DUVENECK
FAMILY
LEGACY**

RACE & CLASS

LGBTQ+

**FARM
& FOOD**

**ENVIRONMENTAL
STEWARDSHIP**

We achieve our mission through focusing on these five core themes as the foundation of our curriculum, sharing them in ways that are relevant and age-appropriate to each program



HEALTH & SAFETY

HOW DO WE PLAN ON KEEPING YOU AND OUR CAMPERS SAFE?

STABLE PODS

Campers and staff will be cohorted in groups. All activities and meal times will be done in these groups to limit any possibility of illness spreading between pods. We think this change will help keep folks safe and allow for a lot of bonding and quality time within these small groups.

TESTING

All campers and staff will be tested on-site during the first day of each session. Testing will be provided free of charge by Third Rock Medical Group. Results come back within about 30 minutes.

MASKS

We will provide masks to all campers and staff. We'll require that they be worn at all times except while Eating, Drinking, sleeping, and swimming.

VENTILATION

All of our activities and sleeping areas will be outside this summer. While we are primarily an outdoors camp, this year we will be all outdoors except for bathrooms and showers. So much fresh air and time to commune with nature!

VACCINATION

We highly encourage all of our staff to be fully vaccinated prior to coming to camp. Let us know if you need help arranging vaccination. If you're not able to get vaccinated before coming to camp we can arrange for time during staff training.



PROGRAM GOALS

WHAT DIFFERENCES ARE WE MAKING FOR THE CAMPERS WE SERVE?

GOAL 1

CAMPERS WILL HAVE MET PEOPLE FROM A CULTURE THAT IS DIFFERENT THAN THEIR OWN THROUGH GROUP ACTIVITIES OR INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS IN THE CAMP COMMUNITY.

GOAL 2

ALL CAMPERS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THOUGHTFUL NON-VIOLENT PROBLEM SOLVING ACTIVITIES.

GOAL 3

THE CAMPERS WILL HAVE PRACTICED THEIR DECISION-MAKING SKILLS. STAFF WILL SUPPORT THEM IN TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONSEQUENCES (POSITIVE & NEGATIVE) OF THEIR CHOICES WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

GOAL 4

CAMPERS WILL DEVELOP AN ATTITUDE OF STEWARDSHIP TOWARD THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT THROUGH THE LEARNING OF ECOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES, EXPERIENCES OF NATURAL BEAUTY, AND PRACTICAL EXPERIENCES IN SUSTAINABLE LIVING.

GOAL 5

CAMPERS WILL LEARN ABOUT THE HISTORY, ACTIVISM, AND LEGACY OF THE DUVENECK FAMILY AND WAYS THEY CAN BE ACTIVIST IN THEIR OWN COMMUNITY.

OUR CAMPERS

Our campers come from all over the Bay Area and beyond! About 60% of our campers pay full price for our programs and about 40% come to Hidden Villa receiving a full or partial scholarship in order to support a diverse camper community! Camp Programs this year cost \$1700 for the two-week session



AGES

Our youngest campers will be entering 5th grade and our oldest campers will be entering their senior year of high school! Campers will be put into age groups of 5th-7th grade, 8th-9th grade, and 10th-12th grade.

GENDER

All of our programs are open to campers of all genders! Each pod will either have a mix of genders or be have only female identifying campers. We always encourage campers to come to camp as their fullest, most authentic selves. We honor the privacy of campers and encourage them to use the pronouns, names, bathrooms, etc that best align with their identity. The use of pronouns different than the ones used at home is not information we share with families without the permission of the camper.

CAMPERS RECEIVING FINANCIAL AID

Hidden Villa reserves about 40% of our camper spaces for campers requesting financial aid, which is provided by Hidden Villa through grants and other generous donations. While many of these campers enroll individually, our camp team works with many partner organizations like Seven Teepes, community services agencies, and foster care organizations to reserve camper spaces for their students.

PACKING LIST FOR STAFF

Camp is a pretty casual place! Here are some suggestions about what to bring to make yourself as comfy at the Villa as you can be! We will provide you with a staff t-shirt to wear on check-in and check-out times, but the rest of the time you may choose your own wardrobe. The Villa is typically cold in the early morning and gets pretty hot the rest of the day. It almost never rains.

Clothing

- 14 pairs of socks
- 14 pairs of underwear
- 2-3 sweatshirts
- Sweatpants
- 2 Long Sleeve shirts
- 8-10 T-Shirts
- 8-10 pairs of "activity" shorts (easy to move and live in)
- A few nicer shirts in case you want to go out during your time off
- 2 pairs of jeans
- 2 pairs of sneakers/boots (closed toe shoes)
- Sandals
- Flip flops (for showering/pool)
- Swimsuit (two-pieces are fine, but please keep camper comfort in mind)
- Sleepwear
- Hat (for sun protection)
- Tank tops

Personal Care Items

- Water bottle
- Sunglasses
- Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Soap/SHampoo
- Shaving cream/razors (if desired)
- Sunscreen
- Nail Clippers/File
- 1-2 Towels (For swimming and showering)



PACKING LIST FOR STAFF CONTINUED

Personal Care Items Continued

- Hair ties
- Wash cloth
- Medications (see camp policies on medications)
- Period care products (tampons, pads, etc.)

Other

- Sleeping bag
- Pillow
- Fitted sheet/mattress cover (if you wish)
- Flashlight/headlamp
- Stamps/Envelopes
- Backpack
- Alarm clock (so you don't have to use your phone)
- Watch
- Books
- Bug Spray
- Your favorite stuffed animal
- Laundry bag
- Your phone charger

Just for Fun

- Crazy creek chair
- Overalls for Overall Tuesday
- Your favorite board game
- Hammock
- Yoga mat
- Journal/Pens
- A windshield sun screen for your car (our parking lot gets very sunny)
- Headphones (for personal music listening)
- Musical instruments (at your own risk)

Please remember to write your name on everything. Also, please remember that anything you bring to camp is at risk to get lost, dirty, or broken. Please do not bring any cherished or expensive items. Also please remember that we are not far from stores (10 minutes) so most things are easily purchased locally. We also have some basic backup items for you if needed!





FAQS

What do I do with my car? What if I don't have a car?

If you have a car it can live in our parking lot for the summer. If you don't have a car there are typically plenty of staff with cars that are willing to help you get where you need. Also, most tideshare companies will pick you up at the end of Hidden Villa's driveway.

I have food allergies or a special diet- can you help?

We work with a professional catering company at camp called Epicurean. Please inform us of your allergies/dietary restrictions on your health form and we will be sure to communicate this to our kitchen staff. You are also welcome to speak with our head chef upon arrival to clarify any specific needs.

Can I do laundry at camp?

Yes! We will even provide laundry detergent for you. We have two sets of washing machines at camp for you to use. We also have lots of clothes lines for eco-friendly drying!

Can I explore camp in my time off?

Of course! All of the property is available for you to roam and explore! Please refrain from entering any private staff living areas or interrupting ongoing programs.

Is there Wifi at Hidden Villa? Is there a place to use my computer or phone?

Most carriers do not get cell service at Hidden Villa. Verizon has limited service. We do have wifi available in our main buildings for you to connect to as needed. We ask that you refrain from any major downloads and only connect to internet while you are using it. We have office computers and phones that you can use as well.

Where do I go in my time off?

Each pod of counselors will have their own break cabin where you can have some time away from campers and other staff. You will be allowed to leave the property on your time-off but in the spirit of taking care of our camp community, we ask that you refrain from high risk activities like gathering in large crowds or not wearing a mask in public.

Where do I put all of my things?

Most of our staff sleep outside under the stars for the summer so we encourage you to bring only what you need. Most of our staff put their things in a rubbermaid-like tote bin with a lid. We have tons of these at camp for you to use to store your things for the summer. If you have small, expensive or important items (like passports) that need safe-keeping you may request for them to be locked in the camp office.