

Early Explorers Information Packet



Pathfinder Ranch
35510 Pathfinder Rd.
Mountain Center, CA 92561
(951) 659-2455
www.pathfinderranch.com

Dear **Parent/Guardian**,

We would like to thank you for choosing to send your child to Pathfinder Ranch this summer. Our mission is to help build life-long memories, friendships, and skills for children from diverse backgrounds. We believe in this mission, and we will do our best to provide this for your child.

During this 5 day program campers will spend each day enjoying fresh air and the company of friends as they learn more about the natural world around them, practice new skills, and play.

In this document you will find the following:

- ✓ Policies and Procedures for campers and families, including COVID-19 precautions
- ✓ Camper Code of Conduct
- ✓ Equipment List
- ✓ Early Explorers Day Camp Schedule Overview
- ✓ Selection of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

The FAQ should answer most general questions, but if you have any further questions about our program, please contact us at info@pathfinderranch.com and we will be happy to help. Reviewing this information with your child prior to their arrival can better prepare them for camp (please note, there is also a letter for your child in this packet).

We look forward to providing a safe, fun, and memorable summer for your child. If at any time you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us. Again, we want to thank you for trusting us to provide an amazing summer Day Camp experience.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth "Otter" Hueter-Willoughby
Program Manager
(951) 659-2455
recreation@pathfinderranch.com

Sarah "willow" Foglesong
Program Manager
(951) 659-2455
sarah@pathfinderranch.com

Dear **Camper**,

We hope that you're as excited as we are for your summer at Pathfinder Ranch! Your staff are busy planning lots of fun activities, and we can't wait to play in the forest with you!

In order to be ready for camp, there are a few things you will need to do:

- ☆ **Help your parent/guardian with the packing list** (sometimes they forget things). Don't forget a water bottle! Water is very important to having fun here at camp.
- ☆ **Read the Camper Code of Conduct.** We make sure that everyone is treated fairly, and there are no bullies allowed. If you think following the code of conduct might be difficult for you, come talk to me on the 1st day, and we can work together to figure out a solution.
- ☆ **Be ready to try new things!** There are lots of new things to try – from new activities to crazy camp food! Open your mind to trying something...*anything*...that you may not get to try again. We will be there to help, and you won't regret it.
- ☆ **Try to bring something cozy for rest time.** We'll have an hour of rest time each day after lunch. You can use this time to nap, watch the clouds pass by, or draw pictures in your journal. Whatever you plan to do, it will probably be better with a cozy friend or pillow by your side!
- ☆ **Come to have fun!** This means leaving all the grumpy feelings at home. At camp, you don't need to worry about *anything* but smiling and laughing. Camp is great because you just get to be yourself – and that's exactly who we want you to be!

This will probably be the most amazing summer *ever*. We hope that you are ready to make new friends, create some great memories, and HAVE FUN – I know that we are!

See you soon!

Otter & willow
Program Managers
& the entire Pathfinder Ranch Staff

CAMPER DROP OFF

Campers may arrive at Pathfinder Ranch between 8:00 and 8:30am each day of their camp session. Supervision prior to this is only available to campers pre-registered for AM extended care from 7:00 to 8:00am. (Note that AM extended care is not available on Monday.)

Correspondingly, campers who arrive before their registered start time will be asked to return to camp during that time. Please use caution and follow the 10 mph speed limit once on camp property.

Once you arrive, please follow the signs to Day Camp drop off, then proceed through check-in while remaining in your vehicle. On the first day, if your child has medications or medical concerns, this will be your chance to talk with our health staff to verify our information. Additionally, staff will provide a health screening daily at check-in, and campers with symptoms of illness will be asked to return home. Once you have checked in with Health Center Staff, you will follow signs to drive to where the group is gathering at the edge of the forest and drop off your camper with Day Camp staff. To help reduce risk of spreading communicable disease, parents are not permitted to accompany their children after drop off.

CAMPER PICK UP

The regularly scheduled departure time is between **4:00 and 4:30pm each day** and will take place at the group gathering location at the edge of the forest. Campers in PM extended care will depart from the same location at their pre-registered time. Please remember to follow the 10 mph speed limit once on camp property. Campers will not be released to persons other than legal guardian(s) unless prior authorization has been provided by the legal guardian(s). Before campers are released, Pathfinder Ranch must first obtain a copy of the parent/guardian or designee photo ID.

EQUIPMENT FOR CAMP

Please take the time to thoroughly review the included equipment list. Your camper's experience, in many ways, can hinge on the equipment they bring to camp. Please be sure to include all of the necessities on the list. Although campers will be provided with individual storage for equipment, many parents / guardians find it helpful to label everything their camper brings. All of our activities require closed toe shoes. Campers without proper attire will not be able to participate. Water bottles are an absolute necessity for everyone at camp and campers must have one with them for all activities. Please provide a sturdy, reusable water bottle.

CAMP PHONE AND COMMUNICATIONS

Please do not expect to hear from your camper during their day at camp. Campers are not permitted to use the camp phones. Pathfinder Ranch phone lines must be left open in case of emergency. Cell phones and other mobile devices are not permitted at camp. All such devices, if discovered, will be collected and returned to the parent/guardian or group liaison at the end of the session.

CAMPER PARTICIPATION / EXCLUSION FROM ACTIVITY

Pathfinder Ranch strives to include all campers in all camp activities. However, in certain instances we do reserve the right to deny participation. These instances include but are in no way limited to: child does not have proper attire, child refuses to follow directions, child is not medically cleared to participate, child's Participant Information Form is unsigned or incomplete, child has untreated medical condition, child does not have proper medication, parent/guardian limits participation, child is a danger to themselves or others, or the child's Health History form is not completed or signed. If you wish to limit the activities in which your child will participate, please indicate the restrictions on your online account. You can return to your account after making a reservation to change or update your child's information.

Age Requirements

Due to the inherent risk associated with some of our activities, minimum age requirements are in place in order to ensure that clients and Pathfinder Ranch staff members have a safe and positive experience. The minimum age requirement for participation in regular activities is 7 years old. Minimum area requirement for zip-line, high-ropes activities, advanced hiking activities and advanced horsemanship is 10 years old.

Participant Health History

Pathfinder Ranch has limited prior knowledge of the participant's health or health history, only what has been provided on the camper registration forms; for the safety of all participants and staff, Pathfinder Ranch asks that individuals with the following conditions consult their physician regarding the safety of attending camp and NOT participate in certain activities:

- Over 250 lbs. in body weight
- Pregnancy
- Cardiac Disease
- Received an organ transplant
- Currently experiencing Abdominal Organ Enlargement (ex: Mononucleosis)
- Active orthopedic and/or joint problems such as rheumatoid arthritis, recent fracture or sprain, current sutures or staples
- History of head, neck, or back injuries
- Any condition that a physician has determined creates a limitation to physical activity or if you think that participating in activities will aggravate any previous medical condition

Special Needs

Pathfinder Ranch strives to provide a positive and memorable experience for all campers. We recognize that not all camps are designed to meet every need. If your child has a special need, we would like to review with you ways in which we can meet those needs and provide great camp memories. Please contact us at 951-659-2455 or sarah@pathfinderranch.com so that we can get to know a little bit more about your child and provide you with the information you need to decide if Pathfinder Ranch is the right camp for you.

Proper Attire

For safety purposes, proper attire is required for all activities. All campers must wear closed toed shoes and remain fully clothed at all times. We recommend brimmed hats for all children, as well as loose fitting, light weight clothes (eg shorts and cotton T-shirt) suitable for messy play. Bathing suits alone are not proper attire. Pathfinder Ranch instructors may ask participants to remove any accessory items (scarves, necklaces, etc.) that could pose a safety hazard during certain activities.

CODE OF CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE PROCESS

In order to attend camp, all participants along with a parent/ guardian must read and sign the Camper Code of Conduct, found online during the reservation process. Pathfinder Ranch’s expectations of behavior and the discipline process are explained on the Camper Code of Conduct. It includes details of the parent/guardian’s responsibilities should a camper demonstrate unacceptable behavior. A copy of this form is also in this packet. Pathfinder Ranch makes every effort to follow our three strike discipline process. However, certain circumstances may arise that require a camper’s expulsion from camp without prior notification of the parent/ guardian. To this point, Pathfinder Ranch reserves the right to send a camper home at our own discretion.

In the event that a camper’s departure is recommended for behavioral reasons, no refund will be issued. Additionally, it is the responsibility of the parent/ guardian to pick-up a camper in a timely fashion, as determined by Pathfinder Ranch. Campers departing for behavioral reasons will be isolated from other campers and remain under the direct supervision of no less than two Pathfinder Ranch staff members. Pathfinder Ranch reserves the right to bill at the rate of \$20.00 per hour, per staff member for this direct supervision.

EARLY DEPARTURES

Early departures should be arranged with Pathfinder Ranch staff with advance notice so that staff can communicate an appropriate location for pick up. In the event of an emergency, parents/guardians can arrange early departure by calling the office at (951) 659-2455. Campers will not be released to persons other than legal guardian(s) unless prior authorization has been provided by the legal guardian(s). Before campers are released, Pathfinder Ranch must first obtain a copy of the parent/guardian or designee driver’s license, passport, or state issued identification card.

CAMERA USE

Campers may bring cameras (digital, film, or single-use) to camp. Due to the nature of our program we recommend single-use or ruggedized cameras. Pathfinder Ranch will not be responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen cameras. Cameras may be used in a respectful manner and only outside of cabins and bathrooms. Cameras may only be used as instructed by the manufacturer. Improper conduct or use of a camera will result in its confiscation. Confiscated items will be returned to the parent/guardian at the end of the day.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Trained health staff are on-call during day camp hours. Health staff will address first-aid and illness, as well as distribute all camper medications. If your child requires any kind of specialized medical care, please contact our staff via email at health@pathfinderranch.com, at least one week prior to your child's visit. At check in each day, campers will be given a health screening. Campers suspected of having lice will need to undergo lice treatment prior to returning the next day. Campers with the presence of symptoms of illness (fever of 100.4 °F or greater, cough, shortness of breath, diarrhea, fatigue, headache, muscle aches, nausea, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, vomiting, etc.) will require immediate departure from camp.

When Illness Strikes:

- Campers will be sent to the camp infirmary to be evaluated by health staff. Any illness or injury which involves a sustained fever, repeated vomiting, severe injury, etc. will be reported by phone immediately to the parent/guardian.
- If it is determined that a camper must leave camp, a parent or guardian will be notified and asked to transport their child home.
- For everyone's benefit (yours, your child's, and ours), do not send sick children to camp.

Medications At Camp

- **All medications:** Medications must have their dosage, schedule, and purpose indicated, be non-expired and be in their original containers in order to be administered to campers. Campers are not permitted to carry medications on their person during camp. The exceptions are an emergency Albuterol Inhaler for asthma and an epinephrine auto injector for anaphylaxis. Upon arrival to camp, the camper's parent/guardian will deliver any and all medications to the Pathfinder Ranch Health Staff. (For Group campers, the Liaison will deliver any and all medications to Pathfinder Ranch Health Staff).
- **Prescriptions (Rx):** In order to administer prescription (Rx) medications, we must have a record of the medication completed on your child's account. The pharmacist's label on the original container must be legible and display the camper's full name.
- **Tylenol, Benadryl, and Ibuprofen:** Pathfinder Ranch has standing orders from a physician to administer Ibuprofen, Tylenol, and Benadryl. It is not necessary to send these over the counter (OTC) medications, unless you would like them to be administered in a manner other than as directed on the manufacturer's label.
- **Other OTCs:** In order to administer OTC medications for which we do not have standing orders, we must have the completed medication information on your campers online profile.
- **Inhalers** must be marked with the camper's name using a permanent marker. And like all medications they must be sent to camp with the original prescription container.
- **Injections:** *Pathfinder Ranch Health Staff will not administer injections.*

Any medication that does not comply with the above requirements will NOT be administered. For any treatment a parent/guardian does not want for their child, for religious

or other reasons, the parent/guardian must submit to Pathfinder Ranch, a signed statement specifying the action to be taken should the camper need care or treatment.

When Will The Health Center Staff Contact You?

As part of routine procedure, most medical events occurring during a camper’s visit to Pathfinder Ranch will be treated and properly documented without notification of the parent/guardian. However, certain situations require that, in addition to the event being documented, the parent/guardian will be notified by a method deemed most appropriate by Pathfinder Ranch.

Instances when a parent/guardian will be notified:

- Serious injury or illness, including symptoms consistent with COVID-19
- Any potential contact their camper may have had with suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19
- Suspected fractures
- Severe sprains or strains
- Moderate or repeated allergic reactions
- Asthmatic attack requiring outside medical intervention
- Loss of consciousness or unresponsiveness
- Seizure
- Snake bite
- Paramedic intervention
- Any medical situation requiring off-site treatment
- Suicidal ideation (all comments in regards to suicide, genuine or otherwise, will be treated as serious and will result in notification of the parents and possible intervention of local authorities)
- Violence against self or others
- Non-compliance with prescribed medications
- Heat stroke
- Near drowning
- Exacerbation of any pre-existing medical condition
- Situations (not already enumerated) for which the parent/guardian has made written request to be notified
- Any situation in which the health staff feels that parental notification is appropriate

Suspicion of lice or nits

Please check your child for lice prior to camp. Suspected cases of lice will result in our notifying the parent/guardian to remove the camper from Pathfinder Ranch until cleared by a qualified medical professional.

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

The following policies specific to our COVID-19 precautions are provided and signed by a parent/guardian during . The purpose of this form is to inform you of precautions, policies, and procedures related to COVID-19, including your acknowledgment of health screening and

monitoring.

For Those At Higher Risk

If your child is at higher risk for complications related to COVID-19, please consult with your child's medical provider to assess their risk and determine if attendance is acceptable, and inform the Program Manager prior to the start of your child's session. The Program Manager will be able to discuss additional precautionary measures, including those recommended during your consultation with your child's healthcare provider.

Prior To Camp

Campers and their families represent our first layer of protection against COVID-19 at camp. It is vital to keep campers home if they or another member of the household tests positive for or shows any symptoms associated with COVID-19, including fever of 100.4 °F or greater, cough, shortness of breath, diarrhea, fatigue, headache, nausea, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, vomiting, etc. When in doubt, consult the CDC Symptom Screening List:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>.

To limit risk of COVID-19 exposure, we are asking that all campers self-quarantine for fourteen (14) days prior to their arrival at camp to the extent possible. We understand that campers will likely need to have continued contact with members of the household and childcare providers as well as that adult members of the household may need to continue leaving the home for work. However, limiting exposure to the greatest extent possible for fourteen (14) days prior to arrival remains a critical step for keeping everyone at camp safe.

We additionally ask that you monitor your camper for symptoms of illness in the fourteen (14) days leading up to camp and report these and any travel in those fourteen (14) days at check-in. Parents/guardians will be asked to attest to the accuracy of this information provided at check-in.

Before their first day, please take some time to talk with your camper about how they can help keep themselves and their friends safe and healthy. Plan to practice wearing a face mask, coughing into the elbow, staying 6 feet away from others, and washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds with your camper. Staff will review these preventative behaviors throughout sessions, but it helps for campers to already be familiar with these before they arrive! If you need some guidance on how to talk with your child about this topic, consider referencing the CDC recommendations to help adults have conversations with children about COVID-19 and ways they can avoid getting and spreading the disease:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/talking-with-children.html>

Thank you for partnering with us to keep everyone at camp, and their families at home, safe and healthy!

At Check-in

Check-in represents our second layer of protection against COVID-19 at camp and our first

opportunity to screen campers for signs or symptoms of illness. Therefore, at check-in:

- Parents/guardians will be asked to complete a health screening report for their camper that includes camper symptoms of illness, contact with others with symptoms of illness, and/or travel in the past fourteen (14) days.
- Campers' temperatures will be taken and recorded. Any camper with a temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher will be asked to depart with their family.
- On the first day of check in, campers will be tested for COVID-19 with a 15 minute quick result test and/or asked to provide verification of a negative test result from within the past week.
- Campers will remain with their parent/guardian until all health screenings have been completed and are cleared to remain at camp.
- Everyone is required to wear a mask and maintain social distancing at check in. More detailed check in directions will be provided before your camper's session.

During Camp

The above precautions are designed to reduce the likelihood of COVID-19 entering camp. However, further precautions remain in place during camp to limit the spread of disease in the event that a contagion is introduced to our camp community. These precautions include:

- Campers and staff will wear masks and keep social distancing in accordance with CDC and program guidelines.
- Camper and staff temperatures will be taken and recorded each morning.
- Staff have been trained to observe for, recognize, and report any symptoms of illness in campers, and any abnormal occurrences will be referred to Health Center staff for further evaluation.
- Cabin capacity has been reduced to allow for a minimum of 6 feet between camper bunks, and where possible, cabin ventilation systems have been updated to increase filtration of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.
- Most meals will be served outdoors within cabin groups. When meals need to be served indoors (for example, due to inclement weather), meal times and locations will be staggered to ensure adequate spacing between individuals and groups.

An electronic update will be emailed at the end of each day your camper is in attendance; these will contain any group updates on health and safety at camp as well as information of the day's events. If the decision to dismiss or end camp early is made, details related to the decision may be communicated via this update. Health and safety information specific to your camper will be communicated to you directly by phone.

In The Event Of A Confirmed/Suspected Case

Parents/guardians will be contacted by phone immediately about any potential contact their camper may have had with suspected or confirmed cases as well as if their camper is experiencing any symptoms.

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

In the event that there are suspected or confirmed cases at camp, but your camper is not believed to have had contact with one of these, you will be notified by email within 24 hours. Campers showing symptoms of illness consistent with COVID-19 infection will be quarantined at camp until their primary contact has been notified and can arrange pick-up.

Updates To These Policies & Procedures

As new information becomes available, and county/state public health officials and the American Camping Association update industry guidance, the above precautions, policies, and procedures may change. In the event that changes are made, you will be notified by email and may be asked to indicate receipt and acknowledgement of these changes in your registration account or at check in.

More Information

For more and up-to-date information on our precautions and procedures related to COVID-19, including, please visit our website at www.pathfinderranch.com/COVID-19. If you would like to review Pathfinder Ranch's full COVID-19 Prevention Plan, you can request a copy by emailing info@pathfinderranch.com.

Acknowledgment Of Health Screening And Monitoring

By signing the online version of the COVID-19 Policies & Procedures form during registration, you acknowledged that your camper's health will be screened and monitored by Pathfinder Ranch staff and additionally agreed to abide by the policies and precautions listed therein.

This form is included here for informational and review purposes only. In order to attend camp, all participants along with a parent/guardian must read and sign the following Camper Code of Conduct, found online during the reservation process.

WHILE AT PATHFINDER RANCH: I will be honest and respectful (of my peers, my camp staff, and myself). I will follow directions and rules at camp. I will do my best to resolve conflicts peacefully and will not act violently toward any camper or staff member. I will respect the property of others and not steal or destroy property belonging to Pathfinder Ranch, other campers, or staff members. I will use kind and respectful language and treat others with kindness and respect. I will stay within camp boundaries. I will do my best to HAVE FUN!!!

At Pathfinder Ranch, we believe that campers want to behave in a way that allows them to have the most fun and feel a part of the group. Unfortunately, they may not always know the best way to resolve a conflict or how to behave in new situations. That's why we focus on guiding campers towards more socially appropriate behaviors and helping them to resolve harm they may have done to fellow campers and/or staff members, rather than on punishing them for mistakes. However, due to the nature of camp, some behaviors, such as purposeful violence towards oneself or others, cannot be tolerated. The following describes our framework for addressing misbehaviors and providing campers with the support they need to thrive; Program Managers will make the final decision on where misbehaviors fall in this framework:

Non-violent misbehaviors - Administrative staff will become involved with the camper, who will be asked to participate in a conflict/resolution circle with other involved parties, as needed and appropriate.

Repeated non-violent misbehaviors or misbehaviors that place the camper or others at potential risk - Camper will speak to a Program Manager and Camper's parent/guardian is notified. The parent/guardian will have an opportunity to speak to the camper. Camper will be asked to participate in conflict/resolution circles with other involved parties as needed and appropriate.

Repeated misbehaviors that place the camper or others at potential risk, misbehaviors that create a toxic environment for others, or misbehaviors that are purposefully violent - Parent/guardian is notified and camper is dismissed from camp.*

Verbal, emotional, and/or physically abusive behavior (bullying) will be dealt with on an individual basis and will likely result in dismissal from camp. Additionally, any camper found to be in possession of alcohol, drugs, or weapons will be immediately dismissed from camp*.

* Should a camper be dismissed from camp, pick-up and transportation from camp is solely the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

The following information is what we've found to be the best combination of clothing and personal items to set camper's up for an enjoyable day at camp...storage space for campers is limited, so in fact "more" is not necessarily better.

Helpful Hints: (remember, we've been doing this for over 50 years)

Please send your camper in practical outdoor clothing. We will be playing hard at camp, so don't wear your favorite outfit or new fashion shoes. Label all items with the camper's name. Pack extra clothes into ONE (1) gallon sized zip lock bag. Quiet time materials should fit into a regularly sized grocery bag and MUST fit in the child's cubby tote (17"x12"x7"). Send daily items your camper isn't wearing in a small day pack so that they can keep track of their belongings

<p style="text-align: center;">CLOTHING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Wear play clothes <input type="checkbox"/> Wear a hat (with a brim) <input type="checkbox"/> Wear closed toe shoes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wear a properly fit face mask <input type="checkbox"/> Bring a reusable water bottle <input type="checkbox"/> Bring sunscreen (at least SPF30) <input type="checkbox"/> Bring Lip balm (chap stick with SPF) <input type="checkbox"/> Bring a light jacket <p style="text-align: center;">OPTIONAL ITEMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sun glasses <input type="checkbox"/> Camera 	<p style="text-align: center;">EXTRA ITEMS TO BRING ON MONDAY (can stored at camp during the week)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Extra set of clothes (including underwear) <input type="checkbox"/> Spare shoes <input type="checkbox"/> Sheet for quiet time mats <input type="checkbox"/> Blanket, pillow, book &/or lovey for quiet time
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IMPORTANT!!! Reusable Water Bottle:

Campers **must** have a water bottle with them at all times in order to participate in our activities. Please pack a water bottle that is at least 14oz in size and can be reused throughout the week (i.e. not something that is likely to break or leak after a few days in camp).

WHAT NOT TO BRING

Candy, gum, food, money, radios, music players, electronic games, cell phones or other mobile devices, weapons, blow dryers, curling irons, aerosol sprays (including all body sprays), personal sports equipment, pets or other animals, or valuables. **Drugs, alcohol, knives or other weapons will result in immediate expulsion from camp.** If any of these items are found at camp, they will be collected and returned at the end of the session. **Please be aware that Pathfinder Ranch cannot be responsible for lost or stolen items so leave valuables at home.**

7:00 - 8:00am – AM Extended Care available for pre-registered campers

8:00 - 8:45am – Drop off & Forest Free Play

8:45 - 9:00am – Wash hands; bathroom break

9:00 - 9:30am – Breakfast Picnic

9:30 - 10:00am – Morning Story & Outdoor Skills Activity

10:00 - 11:00am – Guided Activity

11:00 - 11:30am – Clean-up; wash hands; bathroom break

11:30 - 12:00pm – Lunch Picnic

12:00 - 12:15pm – Wash hands; bathroom break

12:15 - 1:15pm – Quiet Time (naps, journaling, etc.)

1:15 - 2:15pm – Forest Free Play

2:15 - 2:30pm – Wash hands; bathroom break

2:30 - 3:00pm – Afternoon Snack Picnic

3:00 - 4:00pm – Guided Activity

4:00 - 4:30pm – Closing Circle & Pick up

4:30 - 6:30pm – PM Extended Care available for pre-registered campers

*Schedule is flexible to allow staff to support campers' exploration and learning as it emerges.

Where is Pathfinder Ranch?

Pathfinder Ranch is located in the town of Mountain Center, CA -- about 1.5 hours northeast of San Diego, and 2 hours southeast of Los Angeles. We are about 1 hour from Palm Desert, Temecula, and Riverside at an elevation of about 4,600 feet.

Who are the staff members?

The Pathfinder Ranch summer staff is composed of our full-time office personnel, including Program Managers, and seasonal Summer Camp staff, as well as our maintenance and kitchen employees. All of our staff are at least 18 years of age, and all are required to have valid CPR and First Aid Certification while working at Pathfinder Ranch. Prior to employment, all Summer Camp staff go through a thorough an interview process and references are checked. Before working with any campers, a criminal history check is completed on the State (DOJ) and Federal (FBI) level. All Summer Camp staff participate in a thorough training at camp before the summer begins. The majority of these summer staff members are college students interested in pursuing a career in the field of recreation or education. Many summer staff members have worked at Pathfinder Ranch in previous seasons and return because of the positive impact the camp experience had on them. We employ about 28 seasonal staff members during the summer, giving us an overall camp ratio of 1 staff member for every 5 campers.

Will my child be properly supervised?

Yes! We maintain a direct 6:1 staff to camper ratio or better at all times. All staff are certified in adult/pediatric first aid and CPR and have undergone extensive training on how to keep young children safe and engaged as well as on how to respond to emergency situations.

What does “ACA accredited” mean?

The American Camp Association (ACA) is a community of camp professionals who, for over 100 years, have joined together to share our knowledge and experience and to ensure the quality of camp programs. ACA Accreditation means that Pathfinder Ranch has undergone a thorough review of its operation (up to 300 standards) — from staff qualifications and training to emergency management. The American Camp Association collaborates with experts from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Red Cross, and other youth-serving agencies to assure that current practices at camp reflect the most up-to-date, research-based standards in camp operation. Pathfinder Ranch was most recently re-accredited in the summer of 2017.

What’s the weather like?

During the summer it is hot and sunny *most* of the time. Typically, the daytime temperatures are in the 80s and 90s (still a relief from the heat of the desert) and *dry*. Do remember to pack a water bottle! Evenings can get cool (50s), so be sure to pack some warmer clothes for the evening. On rare instances, it has been known to rain in the summer, and this is why we recommend packing a rain jacket or rain poncho!

You have a pool? What if my child doesn’t know how to swim?

At their first pool session, our lifeguard will administer a “swim test” (asked to swim the width of the pool without resting or touching the bottom). Campers who are able to pass this test are given a wristband and allowed in the “deep” end of the pool (5 feet). Campers who either do not pass or choose to not take the test will only be allowed in the shallow end of the pool (3-4

feet). Along with the lifeguard(s), we will also have counselors acting as lookouts who assist in the monitoring of the pool area.

My child is on medication. How will they get their medications at camp?

Our Health Staff make sure that campers take their medications according to the information provided to us during registration. Be sure to read the information regarding medications on the Health and Wellness pages of this packet for more details.

This will be my child's first time at camp. Will they be ok?

Safety is our top concern at Pathfinder Ranch – both physical and emotional safety. That being said, there are many things you can do to help your child prepare for/adapt to their first time away from home. Some examples of things that can help are:

- Practice separations prior to camp – like a sleepover at a friend's house
- Talk openly about camp with your child – questions, fears, why it will be a great experience, etc.
- Pack a personal item from home
- Send a letter that will be waiting for your child upon their arrival at camp Pack pre-stamped, pre-addressed envelopes for your child to tell you all about their experiences at camp – maybe 1 for every day at camp
- Don't feel guilty for encouraging your child to stay at camp
- Try not to set up a "rescue" even if things may seem a little tough

Visit the ACA's website for more information on helping your child prepare for camp <http://www.acacamps.org/media-center/how-to-choose/homesickness>

You should know that our staff is trained to recognize and support campers experiencing homesickness. However, if we feel that there is something that we can't work through alone, you will be contacted by a Program Manager. Sometimes a little encouragement from a parent/guardian is all it takes. If we see that your child is not gaining *anything* from the experience, you will be contacted by a Program Manager to talk about possible solutions. Sometimes it's just not the right time to be at camp.

As a parent/guardian, you should know that no news is good news! While we have our share of homesick campers throughout the summer, they are outnumbered by our homesick parents/guardians. Pathfinder Ranch, given the opportunity, can be a great experience for the both of you.

My child's year has been hectic/isolated/difficult due to the pandemic. Will they be ok?

Returning to pre-pandemic activities is likely to feel challenging for many of us in the coming months. We expect to see more misbehaviors, homesickness, and need for social support than in previous summers, and we have prepared our Summer Camp staff for this with additional training and closer camper to staff ratios. Just as with homesickness, if we feel that there is something that we can't work through alone, you will be contacted by a Program Manager.

You can also help prepare your camper by talking with them about COVID-19 and how to help keep themselves and others safe. There are a wealth of resources available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on how to talk with your camper about COVID-19 at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/talking-with-children.html>. The CDC has also published a video specific to camp communities, which can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fqpQhuWYOtc>.

How can I contact my child?

Unless it is an emergency situation, we ask that you *do not* call Pathfinder Ranch to speak directly to your child. We want your camper to enjoy their experience at Pathfinder Ranch to the fullest, which means giving them the freedom to be themselves in a new environment. Sometimes hearing that “voice from home” can bring up feelings of homesickness (for both the camper *and* the parent/guardian).

So remember, “**no news is good news**”. If you haven’t been contacted about your camper, then everything is going great! If there are any concerns or issues (behavioral or medical) with your child, you will be contacted either by a Program Manager or Health Staff.

If you simply want to check in to see how your child is doing, please call a Program Manager. We appreciate your interest in your child’s welfare, and we would be happy to give you any updates that we have.

Someone other than me (the legal guardian) is going to pick up or drop off my camper. Do I need to notify the office?

If your child is being dropped off and picked up by a group such as the Boys and Girls Club, then you *do not* need to notify Pathfinder Ranch. Groups will have a roster of campers who they will be transporting.

If your child is being picked up from camp by anyone other than the named guardian(s), then this person **must** be named in the “Alternate Pickup” section of registration. The identity of this person will be verified when he/she picks up your child. Please inform the person(s) to **bring photo identification (state issued ID/driver’s license/passport)**. Failure to provide this information will result in delays on departure – until all information is verified. If there is an unplanned event in which your camper must be transported by anyone other than the named guardian(s), remember that you can update the information on your child’s account at any time by using our online system. These departure policies are in place for the safety of our campers. Please ensure that the name listed as an Alternate Pickup matches what is on your designee’s ID.

Will I be able to tour the camp before I send my child there?

Absolutely! Provided state and local guidelines permit it at that time, families can register for free 45 minute open house sessions throughout the day on July 3. Registration is required so that we can ensure everyone has the ability to maintain appropriate physical distancing.

If you are unable to attend Open House, you are also more than welcome to contact us to set

up a virtual or onsite tour. Please be sure to contact us *at least* one week in advance. Prior to June, we are able to offer tours any time during the week (Monday – Friday) between the hours of 9am and 3pm. From June 1 on, we are happy to schedule virtual tours any time during the week (Monday – Friday) between the hours of 9am and 3pm. If you aren't able to tour the camp during the week, give the office a call and we can try to set something up during the weekend.

My child has developmental delays and/or a disability. Is this program for them?

We do not turn away campers due to disabilities or developmental delays; however, we are not able to provide continuous one-on-one care. We are happy to speak with you personally to discuss your child's individual needs and how this program might support them. Please contact Sarah, one of our Program Managers, at sarah@pathfinderranch.com.

Will my child get dirty?

Most likely. Playing outside is dirty business! Your child may also get wet, sandy, or acquire grass stains. For this reason, we recommend sending children to camp in play clothes so that they don't have to worry about getting them dirty. We also require that parents send a spare change of clothes in case their child becomes uncomfortably wet or muddy during their play and needs to change.

My child isn't potty trained. Is that a problem?

Your child does not need to be potty trained, but keep in mind that we do not have diapering stations, so children in diapers need to be comfortable using pull ups.

What types of activities will my child participate in?

Each day will be filled with a balance of exploration, play, and guided activities. Campers will have the opportunity to learn more about themselves and how to make and maintain friendships as well as about the natural environment, local animals, and plants. Because we know that play is learning for young children, we'll also inadvertently work on academic skills such as early math and literacy.

All of this takes place on site at Pathfinder Ranch, where we'll base out of our 15-acre Nature Preserve. Campers will also have opportunities to visit other locations on site, including our farm, garden, and nature center. Daily activities will include things like making bug hotels, practicing bird calls, daily story time, and short hikes.

What will you do to ensure my child's stay is safe and healthy?

Health and safety are at the top of everyone's minds these days, and understandably so. We believe that optimal child development occurs in the sweet spot between total, bubble-wrapped safety and moderate risk. Therefore, we never allow children to enter hazardous situations, but we do help them to develop their own risk assessment skills through low-risk activities such as running on uneven surfaces, climbing on low rocks/logs, and trying new things that might seem scary at first (like touching our pet snake, Gwar!).

We require campers to wash their hands frequently, including before and after each meal as well as after using the bathroom, and we sanitize materials regularly. Every staff member is

trained in first aid and CPR and carries a first aid kit. They are also trained in preventing dehydration and responding to minor illnesses like upset stomachs. Whenever a child becomes ill or injured, we notify their designated parent/guardian - either immediately or at pick-up, depending on the severity of the concern.

Additionally, we closely follow the recommendations of the Governor as well as the CDC and local public health officials on how to reduce risk of transmission of infectious diseases, including the Coronavirus. Due to the fluid nature of these recommendations, our policies around personal distancing, use of face masks, and other behaviors may change week to week.

Can I stay with my child on their first day?

To help reduce risk of spreading communicable disease, parents are not permitted to accompany their children after drop off.

Will meals be provided?

Yes, campers will be provided a nutritious and kid-friendly breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snack each day. Sample menu:

Breakfast - muffin, applesauce, milk/water

Lunch - pita bread, grilled chicken breast, sliced bell peppers & melon, chips, milk/water

Snack - carrot sticks & hummus, water

My child has a food allergy. Can you accommodate it?

We strive to accommodate camper's dietary needs, but it's best to make sure. Please contact our Food Services Manager at meals@pathfinderranch.com with your child's specific needs, and we will work with you directly.

How do I change or add information on my account?

You can log in to your account by following the links on our website. If you want additional help or just want to check to make sure you did it correctly, give us a call and we'll be happy to assist you.

If you have any other questions, concerns or are interested in learning more about the camp, please visit our website (www.pathfinderranch.com) or give us a call at (951) 659-2455.