



# 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

### SYCAMORE SCHOOL, MALIBU LOCATION

**Dear Summer 2024 Parents,**

Welcome to Camp Wildcraft! In this new 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 9th season of Camp Wildcraft.

Thank you for being a part of our camp community!

*Shari and Benny, Camp Co-Founders/Directors*

*Ambar Cruz, Camp Administrator*

#### **STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION**

**SYCAMORE MALIBU DIRECTOR: Shari Davis: Cell Phone: 818-489-3862**

*In case of sickness or unexpected and necessary absence from camp, please alert Shari or as soon as possible the evening before or in the morning. Phone service is sometimes inconsistent and texting is often better.*

**Ambar's Cell:818-617-8994** (Questions about registration, payments, after care and other options, schedule changes etc.)

#### **SYCAMORE CAMPUS ADDRESS & CAMP HOURS**

**ADDRESS: 3504 Las Flores Canyon Rd, Malibu, CA 90265, off of PCH at the corner of Duke's Restaurant.**

#### **HOURS**

Camp hours are 9:00-3:00. You can drop your child(ren) off starting at 8:45am and pick up starting at 2:45pm.

## **DROP OFF & PICKUP PROCEDURES**

**We use a carpool system for drop off and pick up. Parents will remain in the car and line up along Las Flores in front of the campus gate. We will come to you and sign your camper in an out :)**

**For safety on Las Flores** please line up on Las Flores as close as possible to the wall within the white line as you line up for carpool. As carpool backs up please be prepared to exit quickly. Staff will direct you. IF the carpool extends too far please pull up past the school and park alongside the wall inside the white line. We will come to you to check in. **If you need to turn around after drop off, please drive a few yards up Las Flores to a road where you can safely turn around.** Please be patient on the first day as we get all of our systems in place. \

**Campers ready to go!** Please have your child and their belongings ready to go, as need this to be a smooth and efficient process.

**Please prepare younger campers that they will be saying goodbye to you in the car, to minimize stress around separation.** If you have a camper who is needing some extra time to separate please pull up beyond the gate and Shari will come over to assist.

**Early pickup or late drop off:** If there is a time you need to drop off later or pickup earlier than 2:45 please inform the Guides at drop off or text Shari.

**Camp T-shirts:** On Monday, campers take home their camp t-shirt and any items (e.g. hat, sweatshirt) purchased. We will bring their t-shirts to the car during pickup.

**PICKUP PROCEDURES:** **Please line up on Las Flores starting at 2:45pm.** Campers will be brought to the car as parents arrive.

## **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!

## **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.**

## WHAT TO BRING

**SEND YOUR CAMPER WITH A BACKPACK WITH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN IT:**

**PLEASE WRITE YOUR CHILD'S NAME ON EVERYTHING**

**LUNCH:** Send a substantial lunch in a lunch box or bag and a healthy, morning snack, such as energy bars, cheese sticks, yogurt, fruit, trail mix, etc. As yellow jackets are attracted to meat during lunch time (they are called “meat bees”) please minimize 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. **PLEASE WRITE THEIR NAME CLEARLY ON THEIR LUNCH BOX/BAG.**

**WATER:** Send a filled, medium size water bottle each day. **Please don't send giant bottles.** 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.** We have great looking Camp Wildcraft hats embroidered with our logo which can be purchased on our registration site and at pickup.

**WATER SHOES:** Kids like to wade in the creek so please send water shoes in a bag that they can leave here for the week. **Write their name on the bag please.**

**CHANGE OF CLOTHES FOR LITTLE ONES:** if your campers are 4 or 5 years old, in case of bathroom accidents please send a bag with extra bottoms.

**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.)

## WHAT TO WEAR:

**CLOSED-TOED 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 flip flops or sandals. (Kids can change into water shoes down at the creek)

**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.

### **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. 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.

### **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 on 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 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.

**This summer we are having our first annual overnight campout for our Junior Guides and older campers entering 5th grade next year (our 2025 Junior Guides!)** This takes place at our MUSE campus Friday July 12 at 4pm through Sat. July 13th at 12 Noon. It is open to all campers who are attending any week at both locations. Sign up through our Registration System, and select the Camp-Out Option. Contact Shari or Ambar if you'd like more information

## REFUND, SESSION CHANGE & CANCELLATION POLICY 2024

- **CANCELLATION POLICY:** Until May 15th, we will provide refunds for canceled weeks, minus the \$35 registration fee. After May 15th 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. \

## 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 after each session 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 as the summer goes on.

## 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 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](mailto:connect@campwildcraft.com)

Phone: 818-489-3862