



## Camp Woolman 2022 Welcome Letter

Hello families!

My name is Raen Thornberry, and it is my honor to be the Camp Director for Camp Woolman, of Summer 2022! This letter contains important updates around camp structure, information about some of our policies, as well as responses to questions that have arisen thus far.

First, we have received so much interest in Wombat Overnight camp, that we are deciding to offer only overnight options for camp this year. I apologize to those families who were looking forward to a day camp option. We will keep this open as a possibility for future summers.

*This summer, all sessions will be overnight, beginning on Sunday afternoon & concluding on a Friday after lunch.*

*Our sessions will involve differing formats, so please read closely before deciding which offering is best suited for your campers! Every session will be imbued with the peace, kindness, acceptance, and silliness that carries Camp Woolman forward for every summer program.*

### **Wombat Camp**

Wombat Camps are for campers age **9 - 14**.

Older campers will be encouraged by our counselors to provide “older sibling” support for younger campers.

#### Wombat Camp Session 1

June 19th - 24th

This single week session will start off our summer! Focusing on in-camp activities, we'll explore the land through day hikes, night hikes, and the opportunity to sleep under the stars on the meadows just a short walk away. Instead of going backpacking, our wombats will immerse themselves in fun, recreational activities. Every day will provide opportunities to play sports, express artistry & give back to the community through simple chores. Special activities will vary from engaging with restoration ecology, performing skits, & swimming at Mel's Pond. Morning & evening circles will be filled with reflecting, sharing, singing, & surprises. The simple magic of camp comes from eating together, playing together, & growing together! The week will be complete with our concluding fire ceremony at Dappled Light circle.

## Wombat Camp Session 2

June 26th - July 1st

This single week session will include a 3 day / 2 night backcountry excursion. We'll bond together as a camp on Monday through games, sports, crafts, and "getting to know each other" activities. Tuesday we'll prep ourselves for our trip through discussing wilderness survival skills & doing inventory of our gear & supplies. We'll drive to one of a number of beautiful group campsites, with hiking trails branching off. Our stuff will be kept at the campsite, while we venture off into the wilderness. While on the trail, we will be singing camp songs, sharing our excitement, and engaging with mindfulness practices led by the counselors to support campers in connecting with nature & with themselves. We will regularly participate in facilitated conversations to openly hear from one another. We will learn how to express gratitude to the wilderness by practicing leave no trace principles. Hikers of all speeds are welcome. These trips challenge hikers to experience themselves and their world in new ways, stretching physically, emotionally, & conceptually. We will have frequent opportunities to put down our packs and relax, sharing & learning & playing together. Returning successfully to camp on Thursday, we'll have a long rest period, an evening of connection, and a concluding fire ceremony at Dappled Light circle.

Wombat Camp Sessions 1 & 2 may be taken together! Weekend stay will be available with advanced notice, if enough families sign up ahead of time. If this occurs, campers will have the extra responsibility of doing their laundry, taking showers, and preparing for both trips, as guided by our counselors.

## Wombat Camp Sessions 3 & 4

July 3rd - 8th & July 10th - 15th

These will be similar in structure to Session 2. Geared toward campers who are comfortable with overnight backpacking excursions. Familiarity with backpacking is strongly suggested. We will be carrying camp in our packs for our trip.

Wombat Camp Sessions 3 & 4 may be taken together. Weekend stay will be available with advanced notice, if enough families sign up ahead of time. If this occurs, campers will have the extra responsibility of doing their laundry, taking showers, and preparing for both trips, as guided by our counselors.

## Teen Leadership Camp

For campers age **13 - 17**

July 17th - 29th

We will be offering a single two-week session for young adults to attend Camp Woolman this summer. This session will be similar in structure to our Wombat Camp Session 3, yet the hikes will be more rigorous, the teens more involved in the trip planning, and more encouragement by our

counselors to explore their independence within a group setting. The challenging setting of camp will include the 2 backpacking trips, as well as developing clear communication skills, exploring immersive self-reflection, and supporting a growing awareness of how impactful our lives are on society. Every teen will be guided in contemplating their gifts, their areas for growth, and the way they work best with a team.

Please note:

~Backpacking trips will involve digging catholes and defecating in the outdoors. Campers need to be aware of this before signing up!

~Our backpacking trips are shorter due to the significance of this transition year back to camp, as well as concern over fire danger. Our detailed emergency plan will be available for review in the coming months. We are working with local fire & police departments to ensure the safety of our campers.

~Electronics will not be permitted at camp unless required for health reasons and cleared with the Camp Director.

## Registration

I encourage you to discuss with your camper(s) about which session(s) fits them best.

We have chosen our registration portal & are diligently working on having it complete & available to you by the end of February. We will only be accepting 24 campers per session. Once a session fills, it will only be available for registration through a waitlist.

## Pricing & Campership

Camp Woolman will be priced based upon a three-tier system.

The **Comprehensive Rate** covers all of our direct costs for the camping session, including staff time, and those costs related to the use and long-term maintenance of the facilities and stewardship of the land.

This rate is at \$1350 per one-week session, or \$2550 for a two-week session.

The **Standard Rate** covers our direct costs, including staff time, but does not cover costs related to the use and long-term maintenance of the facilities. Averaging at this rate will ensure the long-term viable success of Camp Woolman.

This rate is at \$1050 per one-week session, or \$2250 for a two-week session.

With a tremendous, heartfelt thanks to our donors over the years, we are able to continue offering Campership support to households requiring financial assistance.

The **Campership Rate** is a sliding-scale that will cover a portion of the expenses specific for camp. We hope that this lower rate encourages more people to attend our programs.

We want you to join us. Please do not let cost be an obstacle!

Campership aid will be based upon household size & income. Up to 50% of the Standard Rate may be covered for a household's camper(s).

We will offer discounts as well!

For “bringing a friend,” for being an “early bird” (formally registering prior to March 15th), for providing a carpool, as well as for parents who volunteer to drive our shuttle to & from the bay area.

If it is within your means to contribute to our campership fund, we heartfully encourage you to consider doing so! There will be contribution options of: “rounding up” your camp fee, donating any of your “discounts,” as well as a direct donation.

## **Deposit & Refund**

Every registration will require a *non-refundable deposit* of \$100. This is to cover administrative & software expenses. The remaining balance will be due by no later than May 1st. Registrations that are not paid in full by this date will be forfeited, and given to the next person in line on the waitlist.

Regarding refund, there are two important factors to be aware of:

- ~Most families need to plan their camping choices well in advance!
- ~Our camp depends upon full registration in order to cover our costs

At the same time, we want to be flexible for households who experience unforeseen obstacles to attending camp. Our current refund policy is to provide a full refund (minus deposit) for cancellations that occur before May 1st. After this day, households may cancel up to a week before their session and receive a 50% refund (minus deposit) will be given. Cancellations made within a week of their session will receive a 25% refund.

In the case of a session ending due to fire or other emergency situation that would cause camp to end early, households will receive an adjusted refund for the days not cherished at camp, (minus deposit).

## **About Covid**

In brief, all of our staff are required to be up-to-date with their vaccination & booster by the time camp begins. All campers are required to provide proof of negative covid test within three days prior to their camp session beginning. We have come to this decision to remain inclusive to those families who have expressed an unwillingness to have their children vaccinated for the time being. We have reviewed this decision with other camps, and attended forums with the ACA & the CDC, which have all offered agreement to this approach.

Further details about prevention & mitigation measures can be found on our [Covid-19 FAQs](#)

## **About Fires**

We are in contact with local police & fire departments about the safest preparation & evacuation procedures. We are on their list of summer camps within the region, to be notified of & supported in the case of an emergency. We will be using CodeRED Mobile Alerts to remain up-to-date with fire activity in the region, assessing our situation multiple times daily. In the case of an evacuation, we will have sufficient vehicles available to get everyone off of the property. We will drive to a predetermined location, then await orders from the authorities to gather at an evacuation site. We will ensure every camper is present before moving from one site to another, as well as upon arrival at any site. Whenever service is available, families will be kept informed of our progress through email.

Our priority will be the safety of the campers & staff, while following the directives of local authorities.

While camping off the property and on backpacking trips, the camp director will be present with a satellite messaging phone. Woolman staff will send regular updates to the camp director about fire activity or lack thereof in their region. Park rangers will be made aware of arrival times, trails being hiked, camping locations, and departure times. Evacuation locations will be determined for each day on the trail. Trips will be less than 3 night in length to minimize risk.

Further details about prevention & mitigation measures will be determined over the coming months.

## **Sleeping Arrangements**

At Camp Woolman, we embrace however each camper chooses to express themselves. This includes welcoming all expressions of gender identity. To best accommodate our campers & our staff, we will be offering three distinct locations for sleeping. We are planning to have one space be for male-identifying campers, one for female-identifying campers, and one co-ed space for non-binary campers & campers comfortable with co-ed sleeping arrangements. Campers will sleep in single bunks, or in sleeping bags with a minimum of two feet per camper. Four staff will be available during every sleeping period to support campers as they sleep away from home, in a new, shared environment. This structure will be in place during camping & backpacking excursions as well.

## **Shuttle Service**

For households in the Bay Area, we will be offering a shuttle service to Camp Woolman. The shuttle will pick campers up from MacArthur BART station on Sunday in the early afternoon. The shuttle will return campers on Friday in the early evening. There will be a fee to help cover the costs of the shuttle. Volunteer drivers will be needed to make this possible!

Further details about exact timing & fee will be available as soon as we determine vehicle costs.