

**Summer 2016**

*JRC Parent Handbook*



Jameson Ranch Camp  
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# Welcome!

We are so excited to have you join the JRC family. Jameson Ranch Camp has been operating for over 80 years, and each summer is special and wonderful. We've put together this packet to make sure all your questions are answered before you get to camp. This packet also outlines our expectations of camper behavior, outlines a typical day, and provides an overview of each session.



As we look forward to the summer, we are so happy to be able to provide a respite from the frenzy of city life. Our tech-free haven will help your child rediscover their connection to nature, interact with positive role models, and learn to take healthy risks as they navigate through the different activities offered. Campers are part of our healthy community, monitored by stellar individuals, developing skills such as independence, responsibility, tenacity, and confidence. Campers develop friendships, making strong bonds and lifetime connections as the result of these interactions.

Jameson Ranch Camp has been providing children with unforgettable summer experiences for over 80 years. We're pleased to be able to continue to traditions started by Roderick Jameson so many years ago.

Sincerely,

Erica Jameson

# Our Mission

We call it "growing children." JRC is dedicated to enriching children's lives through working and playing together. Our atmosphere celebrates the individual, helps campers learn to get out of their comfort zones and take acceptable risks, all while learning and living in a self-sustainable community. JRC's staff exemplifies core values of honesty, self-respect, and respect for others.

We believe strongly in self-sufficiency. Our pace of life is connected with the sunshine of each day and we celebrate and create life's happenings. Growing our own food, tending the animals, playing, and working together, all help to develop a caring community where each person is an important part of the whole. Campers know they are contributing to fresh bread for dinner when they gather wood for the outdoor oven. In today's high tech society, it is rare to sleep outside, gather eggs, and pitch hay to calves. Here at camp, this wholesome lifestyle continues from generation to generation.



# Camp Dates and Transportation

## Summer 2016 Dates

Session 1: June 19-July 2, 2016

Session 2: July 3-July 16, 2016

Session 3: July 17-July 30, 2016

Session 4: July 31-August 13, 2016

Alumni Weekend: September 3-5, 2016

## Transportation

### Arrival by Car

It is up to each family to get campers to Jameson Ranch Camp.

Please arrive between 8:30am and 11:40am on Sunday, unless special scheduling is done in advance. We want the camp day to start right after rest-time on Sunday, and having all campers arrive before lunch is a big help. Please let us know if there are special circumstances that require a different arrival time. There is no service station in Glennville, so please fill up your vehicle in Bakersfield.

### JRC Bus Service

We provide limited van service from the Los Angeles areas for Sessions 2 and 3. We provide bus service **from** camp at the end of Session 1, and **to** camp Session 4. Our bus stops is McDonalds, 25323 Chiquella Ave. Newhall (off of the Lyons Ave exit). The charge for the bus service is \$100, or \$190 round trip.

## Flight Info

For campers flying to camp, our preferred airport is Bakersfield (BFL), as the transfer of an unaccompanied minor is simple. Please provide us with the flight number, flight times, child's contact number, and an emergency number. Flight times should be arranged so that campers arrive no later than 12:30pm. A \$100 charge will apply to all campers picked up in Bakersfield.

## Pick Up

Campers are picked up on the second Saturday of each session. A vaulting show will take place at 10:00am, the play at 10:30, and camper appreciations will happen after that. Parents can expect to depart JRC at 12:30.

## Extended Stays

Campers who need to arrive early or stay late will pay a daily fee of \$120 per camper.



## Payment Policies

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A \$500 deposit is due upon registration. We accept Visa, Mastercard, American Express, personal and business checks, as well as cash. We will hold your camper's spot for up to 60 days without payment. Re-registration will be necessary after 60 days, with no guarantee of space.

The balance is due when your camper(s) arrive at JRC.

Your deposit is refundable, minus a \$200 processing fee, until June 1, 2016. After that date, your deposit may go to another year's tuition, but is no longer refundable.

## Gratuities

In accordance with ACA standards, our staff cannot accept tips. If you wish to give recognition to the staff, we suggest a nice "Thank You" letter or food. College students love snacks and coffee/tea.



# Bunking and Hygiene

## Sleeping Areas

Campers will be bunked in sleeping areas with campers of their gender and age. Sleeping areas are assigned at the beginning of each session, and are dependent up on the age range of the session itself. We make every effort to accommodate bunk requests, but cannot always promise that campers who want to be together will be assigned in the same area. In the event of an older camper wanting to be in the same area as a younger camper, it may be possible for the older camper to move to the younger campers' area. Each situation is considered on an individual basis.

## Hygiene

Campers will shower every other day. Due to water usage and hot water conservation, water flow is monitored. It is important that campers know how to wash themselves.



# Packing and Equipment

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This list is not absolutely rigid and you may substitute. As you are collecting equipment for camp, keep in mind the following points:

Be sure to send the full amount of bedding, because at any time we may have cold nights (We recommend a sleeping bag rated for 20°F). If you have only a lightweight sleeping bag, send a couple of extra blankets.

We strongly recommend a sturdy trunk for storage of personal items. Since the campers are living outside, a trunk is the most convenient and tidy way to store clothing, such as offered by [EverythingSummerCamp.com](http://EverythingSummerCamp.com). They can be pricey. Other options include large plastic containers with lids or less expensive trunks.

The boots for horseback riding need to have solid covered toes (leather is best) with relatively smooth soles (no lug soles please) and a defined heel. These features are for safety when riding western saddle. We have a boot bank started for those campers who show up without boots. Please consider donating outgrown boots if you have them.

Remember to mark all items clearly with an indelible marker or clothing labels. Unmarked clothes that are not claimed go to the Salvation Army at the end of the summer.

We do not have a camp store so you need to send the items on the following list...

- BEDDING
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sleeping bag
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pillow
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3 pillowcases
- \_\_\_\_\_ Extra blanket
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8--10 play shirts
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2 - 5 shorts
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4-5 pants
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2 nice sets of clothes for barn dances
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bathrobe (for shower time)

- CLOTHING
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10 changes of underwear
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12 pair of socks
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4 pajamas
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2 swimsuits
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2 sweatshirts
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1 jacket

## SHOES

- \_\_\_\_\_ Athletic shoes
- \_\_\_\_\_ Flip-flops or sandals for showers
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hiking boots (optional)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Riding boots (optional)

## TOILET ARTICLES

- \_\_\_\_\_ Handkerchiefs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Comb and brush
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3 wash cloths
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3 regular size bath towels
- \_\_\_\_\_ Toothbrush and paste
- \_\_\_\_\_ Soap (2 bars) or Body wash
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2-in-1 Shampoo/Conditioner
- \_\_\_\_\_ SPF Lip balm
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hand/body lotion (unscented recommended)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sunscreen
- \_\_\_\_\_ Insect repellent

## OTHER SUPPLIES

- \_\_\_\_\_ Home-addressed, stamped envelopes (5)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Paper
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pen/pencil
- \_\_\_\_\_ Camping bowl
- \_\_\_\_\_ Laundry bag
- \_\_\_\_\_ Flashlight
- \_\_\_\_\_ Extra batteries
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hat for sun protection
- \_\_\_\_\_ Water bottle

## OPTIONAL

- \_\_\_\_\_ Pocket knife/whetstone (best for older campers)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Books for reading at rest
- \_\_\_\_\_ All-cotton whites for tie dying
- \_\_\_\_\_ Backpack
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fishing gear
- \_\_\_\_\_ Camera

**JAMESON RANCH CAMP IS A TECHNOLOGY-FREE ZONE.** Please leave all electronic devices in the car. There is no cell service at camp!



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# LEAVE THESE ITEMS HOME

*These items are not allowed at camp and can lead to confiscation and possible dismissal from camp.*

## **A Bad Attitude**

Rudeness, non-cooperation, cruelty, and meanness will not be tolerated at camp. Campers will be warned about their choices, and given opportunities for change, including but not limited to a behavior contract. In the event that a camper is negatively affecting another camper, a group, or the camp community as a whole, he or she may be asked to leave. Threats of harm or violence will be treated seriously, and are grounds for dismissal.

## **Expensive or Valuable Items**

Do not bring valuable clothing, jewelry or anything that would cause you or the camper to be upset if it became: scratched, stained, battered, broken, lost or unrecognizable.

## **Electronics**

Mobile phones, gaming devices, digital cameras, iPod/mp3, tablets/iPad, etc. This policy is for the safety of campers and integrity of camp. Also, please leave hair dryers, straighteners/curlers at home.

## **Food, Candy, Snacks**

Do not bring food, candy or snacks in to camp. We have plenty of meals/snacks for you at camp. Food in the cabin could attract unwanted bugs, critters, and possibly larger animals.

## **Medication that has not been checked in with our Nurses.**

All medication (even over the counter medication) must be registered and stored with the camp nurse. Our medical team will have your medication readily available for you when needed.

## Cash

Campers will not need cash while at camp. The only exceptions to this are the CITs and Senior Campers.

## Weapons\*, Firearms, Fireworks, Matches, Lighters, or Hazardous Materials

Alcohol, Tobacco, Marijuana, illegal, and illicit drugs.

## Sex Paraphernalia

## Pets



\*pocket knives with blades under 3" are allowed.

# Health and Wellness

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## Exams

Every child who attends JRC will need to have a JRC Health Form filled out by his or her physician within 6 months of his or her stay. We want to make sure that your child is healthy and free from communicable diseases before his or her stay. We want to keep camp as healthy as possible, and health forms must be turned in when you arrive. Our RNs on staff will go over the health form with you. All children must be symptom-free for 24 hours before attending camp after an illness.

## Medications

Any and all medications, both prescription and over the counter, must be stored in the Health Room under supervision at all times. We ask that all medications come in their original bottle, prescriptions with the original label, and instructions.

## Disclosure

We will never discuss your child(ren)'s diagnosis with anyone outside of camp. We count on you to disclose all mental, physical, emotional, and physiological issues your child may be experiencing. The more we know, the better we can make JRC a safe and healthy experience for your child. It is understood, however, that JRC is not a treatment center, and campers who pose a danger to themselves or others, or who are a risk to the welfare of the community may be asked to leave.

## Illness

If a camper is ill, we will make every attempt to treat them in the Health Room. Our medical staff will notify parents if your child is sick for more than 24 hours. If it is determined that your child needs to see a doctor, we ask that you call your primary care physician and make an appointment. Campers who leave due to illness are welcome into the community after 24 hours of good health.

# Food

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## Meals

Food at JRC is prepared daily, from wholesome ingredients. Much of our vegetables are sourced from our garden, and our produce is locally grown. We provide vegetarian options with every meal. All food is optional, and campers choose from what's available. If nothing looks "good," campers may have a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Campers who finish the food on their plate may have seconds and/or dessert. Campers who do not finish the food they have chosen will probably not get dessert.

## Allergies

Please alert the RN to any and all allergies your child has. We do serve nuts, including peanuts, so please talk to your child about being aware of what is served. We take allergies very seriously. If your child has a gluten allergy, we recommend sending some gluten free breads along, for sandwiches and meals. If your child has a dairy allergy, we recommend sending their favorite non-dairy substitute for cereals and drinking. All personal food for kids must be clearly labeled, and will be served only to your child.

## Snacks

Jameson Ranch Camp provides tasty meals and desserts, and food is not allowed in sleeping areas. Food attracts animals and bugs, and that is yucky. If your child is hungry, please have him or her ask his/her counselor or a director for some food. We typically serve watermelon after rest time, and fresh fruit is always available. Campers who are caught with candy or "stash" as it is called, will miss out on desserts. All packages coming into camp are checked for candy, and if found, is confiscated, pooled, and handed out to all of camp at the barn dance. Campers who provide the candy get extra.

# Chores, “Work Crew,” and Activities

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Each child contributes to the running of the ranch by completing a small chore each day. There are many to choose from, and jobs are picked each Sunday. We do our best to accommodate campers on their choices.

## Work Crew

Each camper over the age of 10 will be asked to spend one activity period per week engaged in a project or job around the ranch. We may be fixing fence, we may be building something, or cutting wood. Campers, staff, and the Jameson family have built each of the buildings and structures on the ranch. We continue that tradition today with Work Crew.

## Activities

Campers choose daily from activities announced to them by staff members. Typically there are between 12 and 15 activities announced at any given activity period. As long as 3 campers are interested in participating in an activity, in most cases that activity happens. Campers who are really looking forward to something that doesn't get enough campers can always run around and “sell” that activity to their friends, or other campers looking for something to do. If a camper doesn't feel that something he or she was really looking forward to happens enough, he or she should tell the director. If three or more campers want to do an activity, the director will make every attempt to find a staff member for them.

## Activity List

### Typical activities include

Archery  
Arts and Crafts  
Canoeing\*\*  
Drama  
Fishing\*\*  
Horseback Riding  
Kayaking\*\*  
Mountain Biking  
Mountain Boarding  
Pool  
Riflery\*  
Rock Climbing  
Rope Swing\*\*  
Sailing\*\*  
Vaulting

### Occasional Activities Include

Creative Writing  
Talent Show  
Mud Play  
Trackers  
Zen Garden  
Log Rolling  
Orienteering  
Trenting  
Zip Line  
Work Crew

\*Riflery participants must be 10 years of age, pass a safety test, and be deemed mature enough for the program.

\*\*Eligibility for these activities will be determined by a swimming evaluation.

# Contact with Your Camper

The mail arrives by Pony Express every morning.

## USPS

The local post office provides regular mail service six days per week. Address your letters to:

**Your Camper's Name**  
**PO Box 459**  
**Glennville, CA 93226**

## UPS and FedEx

Everyone loves packages! It's always fun to get a box in the mail. We suggest magazines, books, sunscreen, clean socks, and glow-in-the dark stuff for your camper's enjoyment. Scores for sports fans, or Sunday comics are always great! Please avoid sending food; any food will be pooled and served at the Friday barn dance. Your child will receive an extra helping for donating. Send packages to:

**Your Camper**  
**5760 Hwy 155**  
**Glennville, CA 93226**

## Email

You may email your child by writing [info@jamesonranchcamp.com](mailto:info@jamesonranchcamp.com) with his/her name in the subject line. It will be put into the mailbags and will come in with the Pony Express. All replies, however, will be via USPS, with situational exceptions for out of country parents.

## Phone

Campers are not allowed to use the phone at camp.

# Camper Behavior Expectations

We believe in creating a wholesome community that nurtures every child. Every child is different, and JRC is a place where we celebrate individuality. We believe in respecting each other, the land, and our community. Respect is shown by what we each choose to say and do. Every child is responsible for his or her own behaviors. How we choose to interact with others is a big part of who we are, and every child deserves to have a good time at camp. Campers at JRC agree to the following expectations:

Respect all campers, staff, and animals.

Be kind.

Going through gates and fences requires a staff member.

Stay out of buildings and vehicles unless expressly told it is allowed.

Accept responsibility for your belongings and your sleeping space.

If you feel like saying something mean, keep your mouth closed.

Always ask before borrowing.

Ask questions if you are confused or feel like you don't know something.

Let a counselor know if someone is being mean to you, and tell someone right away.

Let a counselor know right away if someone makes you feel uncomfortable.

Be water conservationists, turn taps off when not using them, or when you see a drip.

Please go over these rules with your child(ren) and make sure that they understand them.

## Contact with JRC

Please call, email, or iMessage us with any questions you may have. We are in the office from 7:00-8:30am, 12:00-2:00, and 4:00-6:00pm. We will answer you within 24 hours.

Summer Phone: 661-381-1572

Summer Email: [Erica@jamesonranchcamp.com](mailto:Erica@jamesonranchcamp.com)

iMessage: [Erica.jameson@me.com](mailto:Erica.jameson@me.com)

Google Hangouts: [Erica@jamesonranchcamp.com](mailto:Erica@jamesonranchcamp.com)

We are always happy to provide any information about your child's stay, so feel free to call.

