



PARENT HANDBOOK



Jameson Ranch Camp
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661.381.1572

WELCOME

We are so excited to have you join the JRC family. Jameson Ranch Camp has been operating for over 85 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 almost a century. We're pleased to be able to continue to traditions started by Roderick Jameson so many years ago.

Sincerely,

Erica Jameson

OUR MISSION

Growing Leaders

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.



ENROLLMENT

We use an [online](#) database for registrations. If you have issues with internet access, or need any assistance, please alert the office. We can help.

ELIGIBILITY

JRC is a program for campers ages 6-15. Campers must be both physically capable and emotionally ready for a two-week outdoor program that allows them to choose activities multiple times daily. Campers must be able to both comprehend and follow behavior expectations. Campers with special needs are evaluated on a case by case basis for inclusion in the program.

We have a leadership program for 16-17-year old's, called CITs. This program is an opportunity for selected campers to train to be leaders in both our camp community and in the world. These sessions of ten campers run concurrently to Sessions 2 and 3, include a 3-day backpack trip, and culminate with a guided rafting excursion down the Kern River. In order to participate, campers must apply with a short reflective essay detailing why they wish to do so, and have two letters of recommendation from non-familial adults.

CAMP DATES AND TRANSPORTATION

SUMMER 2022 DATES

Session 1: June 19-July 2

Session 2: July 3-16

Session 3: July 17-July 30

Session 4: July 31- August 13

TRANSPORTATION

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

ARRIVAL BY CAR

Every camper, regardless of vaccination status will test prior to arrival. These tests are required for attendance. JRC will provide the tests and a window of arrival. We strongly encourage all campers who attend JRC to be vaccinated.

There is no service station in Glennville, so **please fill your vehicle with fuel in Bakersfield.**

PICK UP

Campers are picked up on the second Saturday of each session. The Camper Appreciation ceremony starts at 10:30. Plan for about an hour for the observance and leaving.

EXTENDED STAYS

Campers who need to arrive early or stay late will pay a daily fee of \$150 per camper per day unless they are staying for the following session.

PAYMENT POLICIES

A 15% non-refundable 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 in full May 15, 2022

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

We honor the gender of each and every camper, and make every effort to help campers feel comfortable in our space. We assign sleeping areas by age range and gender. Sleeping areas are assigned at the beginning of each session, and are dependent up on the age range of the session itself. We try 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. Campers typically change next to their bunks, but we have changing tents in each sleeping area.

HYGIENE

Campers will shower every other day in our solar powered shower areas. These areas are assigned by gender. Due to water usage and hot water conservation, water flow is monitored.



DAILY SCHEDULE*

- 6:30am Wake up for jobs
- 6:45am Early-morning jobs begin
- 7:00am All-camp wake up/Inspection
- 7:25am Mail and breakfast
- 9:00am Morning Activities
- 12:15pm Lunch
- 1:45pm Rest begins
- 2:45pm Rest Ends
- 3:00pm Afternoon Activities
- 5:30pm Showers
- 6:15pm Dinner
- 7:40pm Evening Activities
- 8:20pm Evening Rose Arbor
- 9:00pm Lights Out



*TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

EXAMS

Every child who attends JRC will need to have the JRC Health Module filled out within the database completely. Campers will be COVID tested in Glennville the day of arrival, and a negative test will be required in order to attend.

We want to make sure that your child is healthy and free from communicable diseases before their arrival. We want to keep camp as healthy as possible, and health information must be filled out in the module by June 1. Our RNs on staff will go over the health information with you via phone prior to camp. All children must be symptom-free for 24 hours before attending camp after a non-COVID illness.

Refusal to fill out paperwork, or non-compliance in any aspect of the health information jeopardizes your child's ability to attend camp.

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. If they are not, we will not accept them.

DISCLOSURE

We will never discuss your camper'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 camper. 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. Failure to disclose an issue that compromises the safety of JRC's community is considered grounds for dismissal.

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, or we suspect COVID. 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.

COVID

Every camper, regardless of vaccination status will test prior to arrival. These tests are required for attendance. JRC will provide the tests and a window of arrival. We strongly encourage all campers who attend JRC to be vaccinated.

FOOD

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 tastes "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 ask that you send gluten free breads, pasta, and desserts 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 them ask their counselor or a director for some food. We typically serve watermelon after rest time, and snacks can be made available. Campers who are caught with candy, or “stash” as it is called, will miss out on desserts.

CHORES, “WORK CREW,” AND ACTIVITIES

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 fences, building something, or cutting wood. Campers, staff, and the Jameson family have built each of the buildings and structures on the ranch and 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. If 4 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 they were really looking forward to happens enough, they should tell the director. If four 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**
Fishing**
Horseback Riding
Kayaking**
Mountain Biking
Mountain Boarding
Pool
Riflery*
Rock Climbing
Rope Swing**
Sailing**

Occasional Activities Include

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

*Participants must be 10 years old, pass a safety test, and be deemed mature enough for the program.

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

PACKING AND EQUIPMENT

As you are collecting equipment for camp, keep in mind the following points:

While we do our best, campers' belongings are often quite dirty by the end of camp, so for daily activities, send clothing that isn't super special. There is no laundry service at camp.

We require a sturdy hard-sided trunk or tub 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. Other options include large plastic containers with lids. We suggest 10+ gallon sizes.

Shoes are expensive, and you may be considering whether to buy riding boots. We feel that campers who wish to ride as their primary activity benefit from their own boots. If your camper is hoping to *try* riding, we have a good boot selection in our boot bank. All riding boots must have a smooth sole with a heel.

Likewise, hiking boots should be considered if your child wishes to participate in longer hikes and overnights. Otherwise, a heavily treaded pair of tennis shoes/sneakers are fine. Most kids bring flip flops or sandals for swimming and shower times.

Mark all items clearly with a fabric pen or clothing labels.

We ask you to bring these things because we don't have a camp store. However, please let us know if you're struggling to obtain these items. Camp can be expensive, and we typically have some extras on hand to loan.

BEDDING

- _____ Sleeping bag
- _____ Pillow
- _____ 2 pillowcases
- _____ Fitted Sheet
- _____ Extra blanket

CLOTHING

- _____ 14 changes of underwear
- _____ 20 pairs of socks
- _____ 4 pajamas
- _____ 2 swimsuits
- _____ 2 sweatshirts
- _____ 12-15 shirts
- _____ 4-8 shorts
- _____ 4-5 pants
- _____ 2 nice sets of clothes for barn dances (casual dresses, nice jeans, collared shirts)

SHOES

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

TOILET ARTICLES

- _____ Comb/brush
- _____ A loofah/Scrubby
- _____ 3 regular size bath towels
- _____ Toothbrush and toothpaste

- _____ Body wash/Soap
- _____ Shampoo/Conditioner
- _____ SPF Lip balm
- _____ **Unscented** Hand/body lotion
- _____ Sunscreen
- _____ Insect repellent
- _____ 1 box of 50 masks

OTHER SUPPLIES

- _____ Home-addressed, stamped envelopes (5)
- _____ Paper
- _____ Pen/pencil
- _____ Markers/Crayons
- _____ Large Laundry bag
- _____ Headlamp/Flashlight
- _____ Extra batteries
- _____ Hat for sun protection
- _____ **Water bottle**
- _____ Books/Magazines for “Rest”
- _____ “Crazy Creek” /Low profile chair (without legs)
- _____ Mosquito net
- _____ All-cotton whites for tie-dying
- _____ Backpack
- _____ Camera
- _____ Foldable, locking pocket knife (best for older campers) *Pocket knives with blades under 3” are allowed. Campers **must** go through a knife orientation so that JRC may provide them with the rules and regulations of knife usage at camp.

JAMESON RANCH CAMP IS A TECHNOLOGY-FREE ZONE. Please leave all electronic devices in the car. There is no cell service at camp, and headphones are exclusive.

** Please see the CDC [guide](#) on types of masks allowed and fit guide.

KEEPING YOUR BUNK AREA CLEAN

INSPECTION CHECKLIST

- ❖ Bed is neatly made, nothing extra on bed
- ❖ All clean clothes are in the trunk
- ❖ On the hooks:
 - Bathrobe
 - Towel and washcloth
 - Pajamas (can be under pillow or in sleeping bag)
 - Jacket or sweater
 - Laundry bag for dirty clothes
- ❖ In box/on shelf
 - Toothbrush/toothpaste
 - Hairbrush
 - Soap and shampoo
 - Flashlight
- ❖ Bed is clean on inside and dry
- ❖ Extra blanket shaken and neatly on bed
- ❖ Bed on leg boards; leg boards flat
- ❖ General sleeping area is neat and trash is picked up
- ❖ You are encouraged to put stuffed animals inside sleeping bags to avoid having a ranch dog get them.
- ❖ Shoes off of ground

EXPECTATIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS

Jameson Ranch Camp is a place of trust. We expect that campers understand the expectations set within the list below, and that they know how to behave in a social setting. Campers who break these policies, endanger others, or ignore social norms (i.e. playing with fire, disregarding boundaries, or engaging in unsafe or inappropriate behaviors) may be asked to leave. To operate our program safely, we need to know that campers will follow the rules and guidelines established by our leaders. This requires a level of reliance that campers must live up to in order to participate.

Jameson Ranch Camp promotes an atmosphere of innocence, simplicity, friendship, and responsibility. Please be sure that your camper is familiar with the following guidelines, as they are necessary behavioral expectations that are required in order to create the kind of space that is JRC.

CAMPER BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

We believe in creating a wholesome community that nurtures every child. We believe that 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 their own behaviors. How we choose to interact with others is a big part of who we are, and every child deserves to have a positive time at camp. Campers will be asked to sign their willingness to abide by the rules and guidelines posted below.

CAMPERS AT JRC AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING EXPECTATIONS:

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

Respect all campers, staff, and animals.

Respect your body and others' bodies/personal space.

Words should be positive or neutral, not hurtful. If you feel like saying something mean, keep your mouth closed.

Be kind; "please" and "thank you" go a long way.

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.

Being best friends with everyone isn't required, but being polite is.

Always ask before borrowing.

Immediately tell a counselor if someone is being mean to you.

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.

THE RULES OF JRC

Because we are such a small camp, each situation we come across is evaluated on a case by case basis. We will do our utmost to determine the truth in every situation, and help campers learn valuable lessons through responsibility and actions of restitution.

Rudeness, non-cooperation, cruelty, and meanness are not to be tolerated at camp. Campers may be warned about their choices, and given opportunities for change, although this may not be possible. If a camper is negatively affecting another camper, group, or the camp community as a whole, they may be asked to leave.

Threats of harm or violence will be treated seriously, and campers may be sent home.

Swearing has never been a part of JRC's culture. Practice alternatives to regular forms of cussing that still allow for emotional needs to be met. We suggest Catherine Jameson's all-time favorite, "Oh fluff!"

JRC makes every effort to distinguish bullying from thoughtlessness. We may have the opportunity to warn a camper that the behavior is unacceptable, but we may not be given that time. Targeted insults, physical intimidation, and hate speech are considered unacceptable and abusers will go home.

Camp is a place to make friends, and we value friendship and camaraderie at JRC. Exclusive romantic relationships have no place within the camp space, as they are, by nature, exclusive.

Every camper and staff member have the right to their own personal space. Unwanted advances, suggestive behaviors, notes, or inappropriate touching is considered unacceptable behavior and abusers will go home.

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

Mobile phones, gaming devices, iPod/mp3, tablets/iPad, e-readers, etc., are to be left at home. Apple Watches are too valuable for camp, please leave them at home. Simple Fitbits are acceptable, as are digital cameras, and GoPros. Label everything, *especially the charge cord*. These items may be charged in the “Blue Room”

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 when needed.

Campers will not need cash while at camp. The **only** exceptions to this are the CITs and Senior Campers. The buying and selling of items are prohibited at JRC.

Please make sure your campers know to respect the belongings of others. Campers who steal from anyone while at camp will be sent home.

Campers who encourage and instigate “drama,” defined as socially disrupting relationships for the satisfaction of chaos, malicious intent, or spite, will be separated from their peers and asked that the behavior changes. If within the designated time, there is no change, the camper may be asked to leave.

Campers who use racial, homophobic, sexist, or prejudiced speech, actions, or writing will leave.

Prohibited Items

- **Weapons*, Firearms, Fireworks, Matches, Lighters, or Hazardous Materials**
- **Vaping paraphernalia**
- **Alcohol, Tobacco, Marijuana, illegal, and illicit drugs**
- **Sex Paraphernalia (because campers shouldn't be having sex at camp)**
- **Pets**

CONTACT WITH YOUR CAMPER

The mail arrives by Pony Express every morning. Please send handwritten letters to your camper. Those are the best kinds of letters. 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

EMAIL

You may email your camper once per day at info@jamesonranchcamp.com Due to paper usage and ink, we can't print photos. **Emails are printed daily at 8pm for the following morning.**

PACKAGES

We are not allowing FedEx or UPS into camp in order to limit exposure.

PHONE

Campers are not allowed to use the phone at camp.

CONTACT WITH JRC

Please call, email, or text us with any questions you may have. We are in the office most of the day, however if we are not available, please leave a message. We will answer you within 12 hours.

Summer Phone: 661-381-1572

Summer Email: Erica@jamesonranchcamp.com

RESOURCES

[Prepping for Homesickness: Tools for Parents and Campers Before Camp](#)

[10 Messages for Homesick Campers](#)

[“Kidsickness” Messages for First Time Camp Parents](#)

[5 Reasons Not to Worry When Your Kids are at Camp](#)

[Homesick and Happy by Dr. Michael Thompson](#)

[Why Summer Camp?](#)

[5 Tips for Surviving Your Child’s First Overnight Camp Experience](#)

[Why iPhones Don’t Go to Camp](#)

[Why We Send Our Kids to Sleepaway Camp](#)