



THE STICKY S'MORE

SUMMER FUN SINCE '41

News from Friends of Camp Natoma
Volume 2 Issue 1



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CAMP SERVICE DAYS 2020

by Robbie Zbin, Director of Operations

Join us this spring up at Camp Natoma! We want to share the beauty and excitement of camp with Camp Natoma families and community members. April and May is the time to get facilities ready for summer fun! Would you or your family enjoy camping up at Natoma for a day, or a weekend? Would you be willing to lend a hand to volunteers working on projects all around camp? Both day-long projects and weekend camping opportunities - more details at www.campnatoma.org/camp-service-days or robbie@campnatoma.org

CAMP IS A REAL JOB

by Miranda Thompson, Director of Programs

Do you know someone who would be a great camp employee?

Staff recruitment for Summer 2020 is underway, and our camp staffers are as important to us as are our campers. Project Real Job, an initiative of the American Camp Association, details some key 21st-century skills that camp employment can offer young people:

- oral communication skills
- critical thinking and problem solving
- interpersonal and leadership skills
- collaborative skills
- creativity



Our employees develop these abilities as they work with our campers, fellow staff, camp directors, and parents. They are challenged to think on their feet to resolve issues from the health and safety of children to how to get 10 campers to try an activity they've never tried before. They model professionalism and compassion by managing a group of campers while contributing to the growth and development of each individual participant. Staffers receive in-the-moment practical training on how to work with a team and help build the culture of our camp community. They also develop innovative and fun ways to engage audiences, from our youngest campers, to teens, to our veteran staff and guests. In addition to their earnings, staffers gain other benefits: letters of recommendation networking opportunities professional development training and certifications potential college credits or internships Let's get the word out there that working at Camp is a Real Job!

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

JUSTINE LOWRY

My journey with Camp Natoma started when I was in 7th Grade in 2008. I enjoyed spending my summers within Camp's forest walls, all the while memorizing all the silly songs, soapstone hideouts and secret trails. The moment I graduated high school I returned for my 5th summer as the most incredible thing I could imagine, a staff member! I returned for 5 more summers as a camp counselor, and if you know me then you know how I can find that word choice so funny. I am now a full time employee of the County of San Luis Obispo as a Student Support Counselor where I do my best everyday to foster the same sense of safety and dependability in my office walls that I had once offered within camp's forest walls. The skills I learned from Camp's CIT program and the 5 years I spent on staff couldn't have been learned in school. While I loved the 6 years it took for me to get my Bachelors in Psychology and Sociology, and my Masters in Clinical Mental Health Counseling; there is something about the air at camp, the dirt on your shoes and the smell of the fire ring that only camp can teach you. The life lesson to truly find the magic in every moment. The months I was in the real world my heart always reached back for just one more trip behind Franklin, just one more camp fire song, and one more moment with my campers. Camp is somewhere I recommend to friends, family, coworkers and students all day long. If and when I decide to have children I can only hope to share a fraction of the magic camp offered me with them. Camp Natoma is so much more than a summer camp, it is a living breathing entity; a family that against all odds gives you a safe place to return each and every summer.



JANICE MCBRIDE

I attended camp from 1949-1960. In 1956 I was the Camp Bugler. As a staff member I was a lifeguard, handcraft assistant and camp counselor. After camp I married and raised 4 children and now have 7 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. My great granddaughter, Mila, is looking forward to her first week at camp this summer after attending 5 summers of family camp with me. My career was in Medical Supply Equipment, sales and rental. My current hobbies include gardening, hiking, country Jeep rides, family and her fur babies: 2 dogs and 3 cats. I attend Family Camp annually and support Camp Natoma at other events as well. Camp Natoma will always be dear and near to me.



MEET 2020 STAFF



ELDON

first found Natoma in middle school and came back every summer, including completing the CIT program. 2020 will be 4th summer on staff, teaching archery and rising to be an Activity Coordinator. Anyone who knows him would know that his favorite camp songs are Hole in the Ground and Niki Niki Noo. He tells us, "Camp is important to me because I've made multiple life long friendships, and found my passion for working with kids, and I have been inspired to help kids find their own passions in their life." Camp mentors inspired Eldon to pursue a degree in Parks and Recreation in order to eventually become a Camp Director! Outside of camp he can also be found working at the Boys and Girls Club.

KATY

was camper at Natoma and this will be her 3rd summer as kitchen staff! . Katy can be found early in the morning singing Rise and Shine while whipping up some tasty treats, pancakes are her favorite! An important camp memory was challenging herself on one of the backpacking trips and bonding with her fellow campers as they laughed and sang "3 Chartreuse Buzzards" the entire time. Katy is pursuing her BA in Global Studies and Maritime Affairs with concentration in International Security. She aims to join the Military after graduating.

EMMA

returns for her 2nd summer as cook! Emma is also a lifeguard! Cowboy's Lullaby is her favorite camp song. She says, "Some good memories from when I was a camper would be the mud fight, free swim and backpacking- I got to hike to outpost, sing, play games, explore, and tell stories with my new best friends under the stars. As a part of staff, last summer I got to celebrate my birthday at camp, decorate, and put on a fourth of July water show. I could not stop laughing the whole day, it was so fun! All of my fellow staff were always enthusiastic and created an awesome community for each other and our campers where we were all able to get along and have fun living and working together." She is currently at Cal Poly studying nutrition, she loves art and helps put on events through subsessions. She practices yoga regularly, loves to hike, and go to the beach with her friends as much as possible.

ALYCIA

is returning to camp for her 3rd summer adventure on staff. She will also be one of the Activity Coordinators. Alycia loves all the camp songs, but says her top three would have to be "Dem Bones" and "In a Cabin in the Woods" and "Crowdad Hole." She says, "My favorite camp memory was arriving at camp for the first time, I think it was a combination of how beautiful camp is and the fact that it had this aura of fun. I knew it was a place I wanted to be. Outside of camp I am pursuing a masters in mathematics and hopefully a PhD too."

NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It has been great to see campers and families at Camp Natoma events this winter. Pizza Night at Woodstocks SLO was filled with energy from our CIT campers. The S'more Light Evening Fire at Port San Luis Beach connected families and those that made it out, had fun braving the cold wet weather! Stayed tuned on social media and join the email list to stay up to date on new, fun, family events as well as the launch of 80th celebration events, taking place in 2021. Don't forget to register soon, some sessions and age groups are nearly full. Discount prices only through April 1st.

NATOMA NEEDS!

BUS DRIVER

Professional driver with commercial license and skills to drive camp bus. Needed Saturdays & Sundays in June/July/August.

TRUCK

Pick up truck in good condition with 4WD and towing capacity.

VOLUNTEERS

Bring your family, your coworkers, or local group to Natoma for a Camp Service Day (or weekend!) to help our maintenance team prepare camp facilities for summer use!

BUSINESS SPONSORS

Local business can support operations of Camp Natoma and display their pride in valuing the camp experience.

CAN YOU HELP?

Please contact Robbie Zbin, Director of Operations
robbie@campnatoma.org
or give us a call today!

Camp Natoma Spring Fundraiser

Paint and Sip

Join us for a painting session led by Artist and Camp Natoma Alum - Bunny Palvine. Help us raise funds for Summer 2020 Camperships!

Ticket includes all painting supplies, catered lunch with a glass of wine, charcuterie board, and wine tasting.

When: Saturday, May 2
10am-2pm

Where: Rangeland Tasting Room
6996 Peachy Canyon Rd.

Tickets are \$150
Must be 21 or over

Space is limited so register soon!
www.campnatoma.org



WHAT'S AHEAD?



Camp Natoma 2020

Register for all events at www.campnatoma.org



CUSTOM PROGRAMS

Camp Natoma offers exclusive programs for local groups.

Bring your group for a completely personalized Camp Natoma program - enjoy the beauty of the Camp Natoma oak woodland, unbeatable central coast stargazing, hiking, swimming and more. We welcome sports teams, scout troops, schools, and more!

Booking Fall 2020 Programs Now



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