



# THE STICKY S'MORE

SUMMER FUN SINCE '41

News from Friends of Camp Natoma  
Volume 1 Issue 1



*Inside the Issue - November 2019*

## 2019 FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

In a rapid transition from support organization to camp operators, Friends of Camp Natoma, Inc. initiated some major projects. p. 02

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

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Are you a medical professional?  
There are many ways to support Natoma. p. 02

## CAMPER'S STORY

Enjoy a story from a 2020 CIT.  
Will you share your story? Submit your camper story to us -  
[info@campnatoma.org](mailto:info@campnatoma.org)  
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## SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS 2019

*by Miranda Thompson, Director of Programs*

Summer 2019 was another awesome year, building relationships and learning new skills. This year, programs served more than 1,000 youth here on the Central Coast. The Counselor-in-Training teen leadership program saw a huge increase with more than 30 selected participants this summer! CIT's complete a 2 year course in leadership, gaining powerful skills to take with them into adulthood. Staff did an outstanding job creating a feeling of welcome and sense of belonging for every camper, while providing them with a high quality outdoor educational experience. Congratulations to the 2019 Counselor of the Year, Eldon! Eldon has spent 9 summers up at *the camp of our dreams*, 3 of them on staff, and is also a graduate of the CIT program. Thank you to all of the campers, families, volunteers, and staff who made Summer 2019 unforgettable!





# HOW TO GET INVOLVED!

by Emily Zbin, Executive Director

Over the past 6 months, Camp Natoma has undergone an incredible transformation - landing us today poised for a sustainable future, enrollment growth, program expansion, and refreshed volunteer opportunities.

**NOW is a GREAT time to get involved!**

## Do you like to camp?

In the spring, volunteers camp at Natoma on several weekends to prepare the facility for summer programs. Join a project with a tool of your choice - it takes thousands of volunteer hours to make camp work! Maybe it's scrub and clean the pool, operate a chainsaw or other equipment, or help clear miles of trails and roads. There's also plenty of sweeping, painting, scrubbing, raking, and washing. After a day of work, we gather around the BBQ for delicious food and fabulous friends. It'd be fantastic for you and your family to join us!

## Can you share your expertise?

We are actively building committees to support our Board of Directors. Can you share your time, knowledge, and experience on one of these committees?

- Camper Recruitment
- Facilities
- Fundraising
- Alumni

## Can you spread the word about Natoma?

- Distribute brochures
- Host an information session
- Volunteer at a community event booth
- Tell your friends

## Are you an RN or MD?

- Medical staff volunteers are needed for weekly summer sessions and weekend programs

**Check out more opportunities online!**

# 2019 FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

by Robbie Zbin, Director of Operations

Friends of Camp Natoma proudly announces highlights of the past year's facility improvements:

**Solar Panels:** Camp Natoma now operates entirely on solar-generated electricity!

**New BUS - The Amotan Adventure:** With the addition of a new, much larger bus, we can transport a whole session of campers when partnered with the original bus, the Amotan Express.

**Improved Restroom Facilities - eLoos:** Six old outhouses were replaced with odor-free, environmentally-friendly, evaporative toilets. Built with reclaimed wood and designed to blend in to the rustic natural environment, campers and staff think these "thrones" are the best! These self-contained eLoos are scientifically fascinating, dehydrating human waste through air flow engineered to eliminate odor and reduce overall volume, ideal for the environment!





# A CAMPER'S STORY

Story submitted by:

*Eli, age 16, San Luis Obispo*

This was my 5th year at Camp Natoma and was the most incredible so far. As a first year CIT (Counselor-in-Training), I gained a new set of leadership skills. Camp had a whole new meaning as being a CIT means being an independent, driven camper who had responsibilities to the camp. We experienced all the fun activities that other campers enjoy like archery, crafts, hiking and swimming but we were expected to be role models for the younger campers while helping them with activities and assist the counselors in any way we could. We had leadership training in the afternoons that gave us lessons in important communication skills, professional photo skills and how to be a good role model. We were expected to plan songs for each meal and skits for campfire to entertain the whole camp. While all the CITs had so much work to do, we worked together to get it done. While we worked hard, we had SO much fun. The memories I made through getting to know all of the kids (through cards and concentration games) was such an amazing experience. I met so many people and new friends. The beautiful hiking, singing, and endless lanyard-making made the amount of mosquito bites COMPLETELY worth it. Being away from all the pressure of school, electronics, and the everyday routines of life, to be out in nature and under the most beautiful stars is the most wonderful, relaxing experience that nothing else can beat. Camp Natoma holds a special place in my heart where I could never forget it and I feel like I am at home when I'm there. Personally, I can't wait to go back next summer. I would like to thank all the counselors (shoutout to Pablo), the cooks and nurses, directors, and campers for being a part of last summer's uplifting, fun times. See you next year camp!

# WHO ARE WE?

Emily Zbin  
*Executive Director*



Miranda Thompson  
*Director of Programs*



Robbie Zbin  
*Director of Operations*



Jamie Stockton  
*Board President*



Elizabeth W. Barrett  
*Board Member*



Eldon Orgill  
*2019 Counselor of the Year*



*Visit our website for full bios of staff and board members.*

# HOLIDAY FUN ON THE AMOTAN EXPRESS



There are two opportunities this winter to spread Natoma cheer! Come sing and laugh aboard the Amotan Express, decked out in lights and holiday decor!

*Downtown SLO Holiday Parade - December 6th*

*Paso Robles Holiday Light Parade - December 7th*

**REGISTER ONLINE**





# WHAT'S AHEAD?

*Camp Natoma 2020*



## 2020 SESSIONS

#1 June 21 - 27

#2 June 28 - July 4

#3 July 5 - July 11

#4 July 12 - July 18

#5 July 19 - 25

#6 July 26 - Aug. 1

#7 Aug. 2 - 8

Family Camp: June 19-21



## CUSTOM PROGRAMS

Bring your group for a completely personalized Natoma program.

Scouts, sports teams, school and church groups, and more!

Booking 2020 Programs Now!



## FAMILY TOURS

Free guided tours for families, friends, and prospective campers. Bring a picnic lunch and take a ride on a camp bus!  
May 31 & June 20



## DIRECTOR'S DINNER

Adults are invited to a special dinner at Camp Natoma to meet leadership staff, take a brief tour and a get snapshot of our rich history from alumni.  
May 30th, 3-8pm



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### Contact Us!

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