



THE STICKY S'MORE

SUMMER FUN SINCE '41

News from Friends of Camp Natoma

Volume 3 Issue 1

April 2021



MESSAGE FROM SUMMER CAMP DIRECTOR DANO



Dano has an 18-year connection to San Luis Obispo County, where he received his B.S. in Biological Sciences with a concentration in Field and Wildlife Biology from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. Dano worked as a wildlife biologist for CA State Parks for seven years, where he discovered his passion for mentoring and teaching children about anything outdoors and wilderness related.

Dano has taught a large variety of courses in the sciences at the middle school level and loves finding engaging, authentic, and fun ways for students to learn, often bringing his classroom outdoors.

Having a combined love for the outdoors and education, Camp Natoma planted a seed in Dano's heart when he worked as a Camp Counselor in 2016. He led overnight camp trips, taught outdoor skills, and helped campers foster a stronger sense of self and community through social and emotional experiences. He knew that his connection with Camp Natoma was just beginning, and becoming the Summer Camp Director is a dream come true.

During his free time, he can be found in the kitchen cooking or exploring all manners of dirt trails by bicycle or foot with his wife Christy and son Elyan.

NEW HAT DESIGNS ON SALE NOW!



PICKUP PRICE: \$20
SHIPPED PRICE: \$30

TO ORDER:

CAMPERS - ADD TO YOUR REGISTRATION AT
CAMPNATOMA.CAMPBRAINREGISTRATION.COM

ALUMNI - PURCHASE THROUGH
CAMPNATOMA.CAMPBRAINGIVING.COM



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hello Camp Natoma families & supporters,

We have received some great news from the state of California - overnight youth camps are officially allowed to open this summer!

Camp Natoma is prepared to provide exactly what kids need this summer - an ENTIRELY OUTDOORS, screen-free, fun week! This is what Camp Natoma has done for 80 years! Summer 2021 is an amazing opportunity for kids to absorb the healing effects of nature, reconnect with friends, and be inspired by Camp Natoma's staff.

Although we know some things will be a bit different this summer - more detailed pre-arrival health screenings, Covid testing, daily symptom checks, increased surface sanitation, new hand washing stations - we are still awaiting operating guidelines from the health department in order to finalize all of our health protocols. Camp staff now qualify for vaccinations and our protocols will follow the best practice advised this summer - with the holistic (mental, physical, social) health of our campers and staff at the forefront of our attention. Given the trends here in San Luis Obispo county and support from our advising medical professionals, we are optimistic that we will be able to make camp feel as normal as possible for kids. The great outdoors truly is the GREATEST place for kids this summer and Camp Natoma's 360 acres will provide rejuvenating nature experiences!

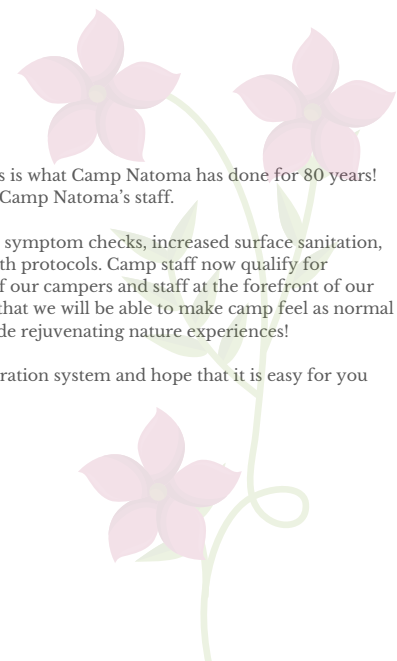
Now is the time to secure your desired camp session. We've received a lot of positive feedback from parents on the new camp registration system and hope that it is easy for you too! Remember, for future programs, you'll be a returning camper and many forms will not need to be completed again.

We'd like to invite you to get involved with Camp Natoma this spring, there are many ways to support:

- Sign up for a Volunteer Service Day
- Invite a friend to register for summer programs
- Donate to the Campership Fund
- Become a Business Sponsor or Individual Donor
- Donate a needed supply: 4WD truck, building materials, craft supplies

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to give us a call! 805-316-0163

Sincerely,
Emily Zbin
Executive Director



MEET THE SUMMER 2021 STAFF!

Carlotta



Hi! My name is Carlotta (I go by Lottie) and this will be my tenth summer at Camp Natoma! I am so excited to be back in my favorite place on earth this summer with some super cool campers. I really like to make art so maybe I'll see you at the crafts table! I'm basically counting down the days till summer. See you on the Amotan Express!

Mollie



My name is Mollie Basile. I have attended Camp Natoma for the past eight years. Outside of camp I attend the University of Portland, studying Environmental Science. My favorite things to do are watching the sunset with my dog and walking around the neighborhood. This summer I am excited to see everyone's smiling faces, and hiking at camp!

Jess



Hello! My name is Jess! I am a student and a Counselor for this year at camp! I am super excited to meet everyone and can't wait to get to know all the campers!

Maddy



Hi my name is Maddy Thacher and this will be my tenth summer at camp. I love to backpack, hike, and ride/train horses. I am so excited to be a counselor and be back at camp Natoma this summer!

Campbell



Hi, I'm Campbell. I've been a camper at Natoma for 10 years. I graduated from the CIT program and I can't wait to be working as a counselor and lifeguard up at camp. Currently, I am a lifeguard, swim instructor, and aquatics athlete. I'm looking forward to making pool time safe and fun for campers! My favorite Natoma tradition is campfire, I love filling the valley with our songs and skits. Camp Natoma is a magical place and I'm excited to see you all there!

Alex



Hello, my name is Alex, I am from Cambria CA. I enjoy mountain biking, hiking, and spending time outdoors. I am excited to get to work with the campers and staff at Camp Natoma, which is a very special place. I'm excited to share my love for the outdoors with all the campers and watch their excitement grow.

Logan



I'm a Junior at Northern Arizona University, the Vice President of the NAU Geology Club, and a member of the Marine Corps Officer Program. I know how much camp means to people, so being able to help provide that opportunity is exciting.



Katy



I'm Katy and I am working on a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and I only have one year left. I was a camper at Natoma and this will be my third year on staff in the kitchen. I love to cook, read and travel. I'm super excited to be spending the summer at Natoma.

Kyle



Hello y'all! I'm Kyle. I love engineering and lanyards; I was CIT at camp a few years back and have been so excited to be at camp again I've missed the environment and the cheerful faces. PS I love you cookiec! I can't wait for your food

Annie



My name is Annie! I'm 19 and going to UCSC in the fall. I love going on adventures with friends like surfing and stargazing. I also love making pottery, hanging with my pups and embroidery too! I can't wait to finally go back to camp this summer. I'm so excited to see all of the returning and brand new campers enjoying all of what camp has to offer!

Eli



My name is Eli, this will be my 7th summer at camp. Outside camp I will be attending Newcastle University in the UK where I will study wildlife biology in hopes of becoming a wildlife veterinarian. My favorite place in camp is boulders of course! I am most excited to play the bugle, to sing, hike, and be in the wonderful nature at Camp!

Amalia



I am currently a senior at San Luis Obispo High School and will be attending Santa Clara University in the fall. I have been going to Camp Natoma as a camper since the 6th grade! I participated in the CIT program and am super excited to be coming back to camp this year to contribute to the camper's happiness with cooking. Baking is one of my favorite things to do in my free time!



WHAT GOES IN YOUR DAY PACK?

CIRCLE WHAT YOU SHOULD PACK FOR A DAY HIKE



FAMILY-FRIENDLY HIKES IN SLO COUNTY

- 1) **Bob Jones City to the Sea Trail**
Avila Beach
easy, 5.2 mi
- 2) **Spring to Spring Trail**
Pismo Preserve
easy, 3.8 mi
- 3) **Big Falls Trail**
Santa Lucia Wilderness
easy, 4.4 mi, 4WD/AWD recommended
- 4) **Montaña de Oro Bluff Trail**
Montaña de Oro State Park
easy, 4.1 mi
- 5) **Crespi Trail**
Morro Bay State Park
easy, 2.9 mi
- 6) **Monarch Butterfly Grove and Meadow
Creek Trail**
Pismo State Beach
easy, 1.5 mi
- 7) **South Hills Trail**
South Hills Open Space SLO
easy, 2.2 mi

LEAVE NO TRACE SEVEN PRINCIPLES

- 1) Plan Ahead and Prepare
- 2) Travel & Camp on Durable Surfaces
- 3) Dispose of Waste Properly
- 4) Leave What You Find
- 5) Minimize Campfire Impacts
- 6) Respect Wildlife
- 7) Be Considerate of Other Visitors.

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Contact Us!
 (805) 316-0163
 info@campnatoma.org
 www.CampNatoma.org



WHAT'S AHEAD?



Camp Natoma is active on social media!
 Find us @campnatoma on Facebook and
 Instagram for updates, exclusive content, and fun!

April
 New Hat Sale

May
 Health Forms Available (5/1)
 Volunteer Service Days
 (contact us to participate)

June
 Family Tours (TBA)
 Family Camp
 Summer Sessions Begin!



**new
 2021
 hat
 designs**

PICKUP PRICE: \$20
 SHIPPED PRICE: \$30



LAST DAY TO ORDER: APRIL 28
 SHIP DATE: APRIL 30
 PICKUP DATE: MAY 1