



## SUMMER CAMP 2017

### Independent Camper Scholarship Application

Dear **Parent/Guardian**,

We would like to thank you for your interest in Pathfinder Ranch Summer Camp. Our mission is dedicated to building life-long memories, friendships and skills for children from diverse backgrounds. We believe in this mission, and we will do our best to provide this for your child.

Enclosed in this packet is the Independent Camper Scholarship Application that you will need to fill out with your child in order to be considered for financial assistance for Summer Camp. We ask that you and your child take the time to fill out the necessary forms **completely**, and return them to Pathfinder Ranch by the following dates order to be eligible for consideration:

- First Round of Applications: Due March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017
  - Applicants will be notified no later than March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017
- Second Round of Applications: Due April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017
  - Applicants will be notified no later than April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017
- First Round of Applications: Due May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017
  - Applicants will be notified no later than May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017

You do NOT need to submit multiple applications, just one. Once we receive the application we will review it and make our decision very quickly, as stated above. The Summer Camp Scholarships will be awarded in amounts of \$75 and \$100 per eligible camper as long as Scholarship funds are available, and that amount will be applied towards their Summer Camp registration fee.

In this packet you will also find a list of Frequently Asked Questions. The FAQ should answer most general questions, but if you have any further questions, please contact us at (951) 659-2455 and we will be happy to help. Our staff team here at Pathfinder Ranch looks forward to providing a safe and memorable summer for your child.

Please direct any questions or concerns to:

Shari Walls

*Recreation Director*

[shari@pathfinderranch.com](mailto:shari@pathfinderranch.com)

35510 Pathfinder Rd.

Mountain Center, CA 92561

(951) 659-2455 Ext. 19

[www.PathfinderRanch.com](http://www.PathfinderRanch.com)

**How does the Scholarship work?**

Families who would like to receive financial assistance to pay for Summer Camp are encouraged to submit a Summer Camp Scholarship Application. The amount of the scholarship will be applied to the final invoice for the Summer Camp Registration, reducing the cost of attending Summer Camp. Scholarships will not be distributed as cash.

**How do I register for Summer Camp?**

You may register for Summer Camp at any time, even if you are waiting to hear about the status of your Scholarship Application. To register for 2017 Summer Camp, please go online to [www.PathfinderRanch.com/summer-camp](http://www.PathfinderRanch.com/summer-camp) for immediate registration. You may also call Pathfinder Ranch at (951) 659-2455. Only a deposit is required to secure your Summer Camp registration, and the deposit can be submitted by cash, check or debit/credit. The remaining balance can be paid on a scheduled payment plan.

**What does ACA accredited mean?**

The American Camp Association (ACA) is a community of camp professionals who, for over 100 years, have joined together to share our knowledge and experience and to ensure the quality of camp programs. ACA Accreditation means that Pathfinder Ranch has undergone a thorough (up to 300 standards) review of its operation — from staff qualifications and training to emergency management. The American Camp Association collaborates with experts from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Red Cross, and other youth-serving agencies to assure that current practices at camp reflect the most up-to-date, research-based standards in camp operation. Pathfinder Ranch was recently reaccredited in the summer of 2014.

**What's the weather like?**

During the summer it is hot and sunny *most* of the time. Typically, the daytime temperatures are in the 80s and 90s (still a relief from the heat of the desert) and *dry*. Don't forget to pack a water bottle! Evenings can get cool (50s), so be sure to pack some warmer clothes for the evening. On very rare instances, it has even been known to rain in the summer!

**What are the cabins like?**

Campers will be staying in rustic, yet modern cabins. Each cabin is equipped with bunk beds and restrooms (with individual shower stalls and individual toilets). Cabins are separated boys/girls and further grouped into age. Each cabin group will have around 10 campers, with at least one counselor leading the cabin.

**Can I request my child be in the same cabin as his/her friends or siblings?**

Yes. During your registration, simply make a note of the request in your paperwork. You are also welcome to call us with any bunk requests. However, while we will do our best to accommodate these requests, we cannot guarantee that they will be met. Campers are divided into age groups so only friends of similar ages are likely to be grouped together.

**What are the activities offered at camp?**

At Pathfinder Ranch we offer a wide range of activities suitable for campers of different ages and skill levels. Our activities are led by program specialists, who are assisted by at least one counselor. These activities include but are not limited to Arts and Crafts, Rock Climbing, Canoeing, Archery, Team Challenge, Swimming/Pool, Horseback Riding, and Explorer's Club. Midway through the week, campers are given the opportunity to sign up for new and creative activities offered by our specialists. While the elective activities offered may change from season to season, campers are sure to have a great time. Past examples of elective classes are Farm Animal Fun, Dance, and Horsemanship. There are also planned evening activities throughout the week such as campfire, cabin night, and even a themed dance party!

**You have a pool? What if my child doesn't know how to swim?**

At their first pool session, our lifeguard will administer a "swim test". Campers who are able to pass this test are given a wristband and allowed in the "deep" end of the pool (5 feet). Campers who either do not pass or choose to not take the test will only be allowed in the shallow end of the pool (3-4 feet). Along with a lifeguard(s), we will also have counselors acting as lookouts who will assist in the monitoring of the pool area.

**This will be my child’s first time at camp. Will he/she be ok?**

Safety is our top concern at Pathfinder Ranch – both physical and emotional safety. That being said, there are many things you can do to help your child prepare for/adapt to his/her first time away from home. Some examples of things that will help are:

- Practice separations prior to camp – like a sleepover at a friend’s house
- Talk openly about camp with your child – questions, fears, why it will be a great experience, etc.
- Pack a personal item from home
- Send a letter that will be waiting for your child upon his/her arrival at camp
- Pack pre-stamped, pre-addressed envelopes for your child to tell you all about their experiences at camp – maybe 1 for every day at camp
- Don’t feel guilty for encouraging your child to stay at camp
- Try not to set up a “rescue” even if things may seem a little tough
- Visit the ACA’s website for more information on helping your child prepare for camp  
<http://www.acacamps.org/media-center/how-to-choose/homesickness>

You should know that our staff is trained to recognize and deal with homesickness. However, if we feel that there is something that we can’t work through alone, you will be contacted by the Summer Camp Coordinator. Sometimes a little encouragement from a parent/guardian is all it takes. If we see that your child is not gaining *anything* from the experience, you will be contacted by the Summer Camp Coordinator to talk about possible solutions. Sometimes it’s just not the right time to be at camp.

As a parent/guardian, you should know that– no news is good news! While we have our share of homesick campers throughout the summer, they are outnumbered by our homesick parents/guardians. Pathfinder Ranch, given the opportunity, can be a great experience for the both of you.

**How can I contact my child?**

Unless it is an emergency situation, we ask that you *do not* call Pathfinder Ranch to speak directly to your child. We want your camper to enjoy their experience at Pathfinder Ranch to the fullest, which means giving them the freedom to be themselves in a new environment. Sometimes hearing that “voice from home” can bring up feelings of homesickness (for both the camper *and* the parent/guardian).

So remember “**no news is good news**”. If you haven’t been contacted about your camper, then everything is going great! If there are any concerns or issues (behavioral or medical) with your child, you will be contacted either by the Summer Camp Coordinator or the Health Staff.

If you simply want to check in to see how your child is doing, please call the Summer Camp Coordinator. We appreciate your interest in your child’s welfare, and we would be happy to give you any updates that we have.

Pathfinder Ranch encourages you to send your child mail via USPS. To ensure that postage mail arrives on time, you should try and send it one week *prior* to your camper’s arrival day.

Camper Mail will be distributed at meal time. Please send all mail to:

<p><b>NAME OF CAMPER, Session # _____</b>  c/o Pathfinder Ranch  35510 Pathfinder Rd  Mountain Center, CA 92561</p>
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**Someone other than me (the legal guardian) is going to pick up or drop off my camper. Do I need to notify the office?**

If your child is being dropped off and picked up by a Boys & Girls Club, then you *do not* need to notify Pathfinder Ranch. The Boys and Girls club will have a roster of campers who they will be transporting.

If your child is being picked up from camp by anyone other than the named guardian(s), then this person **must** be named in the registration process as an authorized pick-up person. The identity of this person will be verified when he/she picks up your child. Please inform the person(s) to **bring photo identification (state issued ID/driver's license/passport)**. Failure to provide this information will result in delays on departure – until all information is verified. If there is an unplanned event in which your camper must be transported by anyone other than the named guardian(s), please call Pathfinder Ranch and be prepared to verify any information necessary. These departure policies are in place for the safety of our campers.

**Would I be able to tour the camp before I send my child there?**

Absolutely! You are more than welcome to tour the camp. We ask that you set up a "tour date" *at least* one week in advance. Prior to Summer Camp, we are able to offer tours any time during the week (Monday – Friday) between the hours of 9am and 3pm. Once our Summer Camp is in session we can offer tours Tuesday – Friday between the hours of 9am and 3pm. If you aren't able to tour the camp during the week, give the office a call and we can try to set something up during the weekend.

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If you have any other questions, concerns or are interested in learning more about the camp, please visit our website ([www.pathfinderranch.com](http://www.pathfinderranch.com)) or give us a call at (951) 659-2455.

**NOTE: Please keep pages 1-4 of this packet for your reference. You only need to return pages 5 & 6 for consideration of an Independent Camper Scholarship**

The section below is to be filled out by the **Parent/Guardian**

**CAMPER NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **BIRTH DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **GENDER:** \_\_\_\_\_  
LAST FIRST MI

**HOME ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET ADDRESS

**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**1<sup>ST</sup> PARENT/GUARDIAN:** \_\_\_\_\_

**HOME PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CELL PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**WORK PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**2<sup>ND</sup> PARENT/GUARDIAN:** \_\_\_\_\_









**HOME PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CELL PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**WORK PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ANNUAL INCOME OF HOUSEHOLD IN WHICH THE CAMPER RESIDES:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **PER YEAR**

**TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN THE HOME IN WHICH THE CAMPER RESIDES:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CHILDREN** \_\_\_\_\_ **ADULTS**

Please have the **Camper** answer the following questions in order to help us determine Scholarship Eligibility

<p><b>1) Have you ever been to Summer Camp? (check one of the boxes below )</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>YES</b> or <input type="checkbox"/> <b>NO</b>                  (if YES, please answer the "star" questions only.....if NO, please answer the "moon" questions only)</p>	
<p><b>2) What were <u>your</u> favorite things about Camp?</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p><b>2) Why do <u>you</u> want to come to Summer Camp?</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>
<p><b>3) How long did you stay at Summer Camp the last time?</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p><b>3) Have you ever stayed a night away from home?</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>
<p><b>4) Name one NEW thing you want to try at Camp?</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p><b>4) Name one NEW thing you want to try at Camp?</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>
<p><b>5) If you could go anywhere in the world, where would it be and why?</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p><b>5) If you could go anywhere in the world, where would it be and why?</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>

