

# Summer Camp Information Packet



Pathfinder Ranch  
35510 Pathfinder Rd.  
Mountain Center, CA 92561  
(951) 659-2455  
[www.pathfinderranch.com](http://www.pathfinderranch.com)

Dear **Parent/Guardian**,

We would like to thank you for choosing to send your child to Pathfinder Ranch this summer. Our mission is to help build 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.

During this 5 ½ day program campers will spend their nights in one of four lodges. Each lodge is equipped with bunk beds, individual shower and toilet stalls, and some of the greatest camp counselors you will find anywhere. Summer campers will be introduced to a wide array of experiences ranging from social development and teamwork to rock climbing and arts & crafts.

In this document you will find the following:

- Policies and Procedures (Camp Rules and ) for campers and families,
- Camper Code of conduct
- Packing list
- Summer camp schedule summary
- Selection of Frequently Asked Questions. (FAQ)

The FAQ should answer most general questions, but if you have any further questions about our program, please contact us at (951) 659-2455 and we will be happy to help. Reviewing this information with your child prior to their arrival can better prepare them for camp (please note, there is also a letter for your child in this packet).

We look forward to providing a safe, fun, and memorable summer for your child. If at *any* time you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us. Again, we want to thank you for trusting us to provide an amazing Summer Camp experience.

Sincerely,  
Chris "Spo" Grumbine  
*Summer Camp Coordinator*  
(951) 659-2455 x17  
[summercamps@pathfinderranch.com](mailto:summercamps@pathfinderranch.com)

Dear **Camper**,

We hope that you're as excited as we are for your summer at Pathfinder Ranch! Whether it's your first time at Pathfinder or your fifth time here at camp, I can guarantee a memorable experience. Hopefully you will learn *something* new – maybe about our horses, maybe about someone else, or maybe even about yourself!

In order to be ready for camp, there are a few things you will need to do:

- **Help your parent/guardian with the packing list** (sometimes they forget things). Don't forget a water bottle! Water is very important, if you don't have a water bottle for activities, you will have to get one before you will be allowed to participate
- **Re-read the code of conduct.** We make sure that everyone is treated fairly, and there are no bullies allowed. If you think following the code of conduct might be difficult for you, come talk to me on the 1<sup>st</sup> day and we can work together to figure out a solution.
- **Be ready to try new things!** There are lots of new things to try – from new activities to crazy camp food! Open your mind to trying something...*anything*...that you may not get to try again. We will be there to help, and you won't regret it.
- **Try and pack something fun, to wear.** There will be at least one night where we all get to dress up (although you could dress up every day if you wanted). It shouldn't be a new outfit! Maybe something you could use during your Campfire skit. I like to use my old clothes, ask a friend if I can borrow any old clothes, or go to the thrift store to make something fun to wear. Don't worry, you won't be the only one dressing up – the staff will too!
- **Come to have fun!** This means leaving all the negativity off camp. You don't need to worry about *anything* but smiling and laughing. Camp is great because you just get to be yourself – and that's exactly who we want you to be!

This will probably be the most amazing summer *ever*. We hope that you are ready to make new friends, create some great memories, and HAVE FUN – I know that we are! Whether we are meeting you for the first time or seeing you again after a whole year, we can't wait for you to get here! (You *are* marking the days off on the calendar, right?)

See you soon!



“Spo”  
(Summer Camp Coordinator)  
& the Pathfinder Ranch Staff

**CAMPER ARRIVAL**

Campers may arrive to Pathfinder between **noon and 1:00 PM** on the Monday of their camp session. Supervision is not available to campers arriving prior to noon. Correspondingly, campers who arrive before noon will be asked to return to camp between noon and 12:30. Please use caution and follow the 10 mph speed limit once on camp property.

Once you arrive, please allow our staff to direct you to the proper area. Independent arrivals (campers who are dropped off by their parent/guardian) will be directed to a designated parking area and shown where to check-in. If your child has medications or medical concerns, this will be your chance to sit down with our health staff to verify our information. You will then have the opportunity to accompany your camper on an orientation tour. This is optional and will take campers around campus before ending back by the camper check-in station. Parents/Guardians are not permitted to accompany their children after the completion of the health check at the end of the orientation tour.

**CAMPER DEPARTURE**

The regularly scheduled departure time is between 10:00 and 10:30 on Saturday morning. Please remember to follow the 10 mph speed limit once on camp property and allow our staff to direct you to a designated parking area and to the camper check-out station.

**PACKING FOR CAMP**

Please take the time to thoroughly review the included packing list. Your camper’s experience, in many ways, hinges on the equipment they bring to camp. Please be sure to include all of the necessities on the packing list. Additionally, many parents / guardians find it helpful to label **everything** their camper brings. All of our activities (with the exception of the pool) require closed toe shoes. Campers without proper attire will not be allowed to participate. Water bottles are an absolute necessity for everyone at camp and campers must have one with them for all activities. Please provide a sturdy, reusable water bottle.

**CAMP PHONE AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Please do not expect to hear from your camper during their stay at camp. Campers are not permitted to use the camp phones. Pathfinder Ranch phone lines must be left open in case of emergency. Campers may be contacted by USPS. Please note: each camp session is only 5 ½ days long. Please plan accordingly. Camper mail may be addressed as follows:

**NAME OF CAMPER & ARRIVAL DATE**  
c/o Pathfinder Ranch  
35510 Pathfinder Rd  
Mountain Center, CA 92561

Cell phones and other mobile devices are not permitted at camp. All such devices, if discovered, will be collected and returned to the parent/guardian or group liaison at the end of the session.

### **CAMPER PARTICIPATION / EXCLUSION FROM ACTIVITY**

Pathfinder Ranch strives to include all campers in all camp activities. However, in certain instances we do reserve the right to deny participation. These instances include but are in no way limited to: child does not have proper attire, child refuses to follow directions, child does not meet size/ height requirement, child is not medically cleared to participate, child's Participant Information Form is unsigned or incomplete, child has untreated medical condition, child does not have proper medication, parent/guardian limits participation, child is a danger to themselves or others, or the child's Health History form is not completed or signed. If you wish to limit the activities in which your child will participate, please indicate the restrictions on your online account. You can return to your account after making a reservation to change or update your child's information.

#### **Age Requirement**

Due to the inherent risk associated with some of our activities, minimum age requirements are in place in order to ensure that clients and Pathfinder Ranch staff members have a safe and positive experience. The minimum age requirement for participation in regular activities is 7 years old. Minimum age requirement for Zip-Line, high-ropes activities, advanced hiking activities and advanced horsemanship is 10 years old.

#### **Participant Health History**

Pathfinder Ranch has limited prior knowledge of the participant's health or health history, only what has been provided on the camper registration forms; for the safety of all participants and staff, Pathfinder Ranch asks that individuals with the following conditions NOT participate in certain activities:

- Over 250 lbs. in body weight
- Pregnancy
- Cardiac Disease
- Received an organ transplant
- Currently experiencing Abdominal Organ Enlargement (ex: Mononucleosis)
- Active orthopedic and/or joint problems such as rheumatoid arthritis, recent fracture or sprain, current sutures or staples
- History of head, neck, or back injuries
- Any condition that a physician has determined creates a limitation to physical activity or if you think that participating in Adventure Program activities will aggravate any previous medical condition

#### **Special Needs**

Pathfinder Ranch strives to provide a positive and memorable experience for all campers. We recognize that not all camps are designed to meet every need. If your child has a special need, we would like to review with you ways in which we can meet those needs and provide great summer camp memories. Please contact us at 951-659-2455 or [summercamps@pathfinderranch.com](mailto:summercamps@pathfinderranch.com) so that we can get to know a little bit more about your child and provide you with the information you need to decide if Pathfinder Ranch is the right camp for you.

**Proper Attire**

For safety purposes, proper attire is required for all Adventure Program activities. Pathfinder Ranch instructors may ask participants to remove any accessory items (scarves, necklaces, etc.) that could pose a safety hazard. The requirements for specific activities are as follows:

<p>Archery Team Challenge Hiking</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Closed toed shoes must be worn by all participants.</li> <li>● Arm guards are provided by Pathfinder Ranch for all archery activities.</li> </ul>
<p>Climbing Wall Alpine Tower Rock Climbing Zip-lines Pamper Pole High Ropes Traverse</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Closed toed shoes must be worn by all participants.</li> <li>● Helmets are provided by Pathfinder Ranch for any and all climbing activities, and must be worn by all climbers when climbing; helmets are also required to be worn by participants on the ground when instructed to do so by a Pathfinder Ranch instructor.</li> </ul>
<p>Canoeing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Personal Floatation Devices are provided by Pathfinder Ranch and must be properly fitted and worn by all canoeing participants.</li> <li>● Closed toed shoes must be worn by all participants.</li> </ul>
<p>Ground Based Horsemanship Horseback Riding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Properly fitted helmets must be worn by all riders; helmets are provided by Pathfinder Ranch<sup>1</sup>.</li> <li>● Closed-toe shoes must be worn by all participants, riding and non-riding.</li> <li>● Long pants are recommended for all weather conditions.</li> </ul>
<p>Swimming Pool</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Swimsuits and swim trunks are preferred.</li> <li>● Children that are in diapers should wear a Swim-diaper made for aquatic activities.</li> <li>● For participants choosing to wear an over-shirt: thin over-shirts only.</li> <li>● No denim/jean shorts or pants.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> If participants wish to bring their own helmet, they must submit it a Pathfinder Ranch staff member for inspection. The helmet must meet ASTM/SEI certifications for Equestrian Helmets, be in safe, working order, and be 5 years old or under.

### **CODE OF CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE PROCESS**

In order to attend camp, all participants along with a parent/ guardian must read and sign the *Camper Code of Conduct*, found online during the reservation process. Pathfinder Ranch's expectations of behavior and the discipline process are explained on the *Camper Code of Conduct*. It includes details of the parent/guardian's responsibilities should a camper demonstrate unacceptable behavior. A copy of this form is also in this packet. Pathfinder Ranch makes every effort to follow our three strike discipline process. However, certain circumstances may arise that require a camper's expulsion from camp without prior notification of the parent/ guardian. To this point, Pathfinder Ranch reserves the right to send a camper home at our own discretion.

In the event that a camper's departure is recommended for behavioral reasons, no refund will be issued. Additionally, it is the responsibility of the parent/ guardian to pick-up a camper in a timely fashion, as determined by Pathfinder Ranch. Campers departing for behavioral reasons will be isolated from other campers and remain under the direct supervision of no less than two Pathfinder Ranch staff members. Pathfinder Ranch reserves the right to bill at the rate of \$20.00 per hour, per staff member for this direct supervision.

### **EARLY DEPARTURES**

Campers will not be released to persons other than legal guardian(s) unless prior authorization has been provided by the legal guardian(s). Before campers are released, Pathfinder Ranch must first obtain a copy of the parent/guardian or designee driver's license, passport, or state issued identification card.

### **CAMERA USE**

Campers may bring cameras (digital, film, single-use) to camp. Due to the nature of our program we recommend single-use or ruggedized cameras. Pathfinder Ranch will not be responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen cameras. Cameras may be used in a respectful manner and only outside of cabins and bathrooms. Cameras may only be used as instructed by the manufacturer. Improper conduct or use of a camera will result in its confiscation. Confiscated items will be returned to the parent/guardian or group liaison at the end of the week.

### **HEALTH AND WELLNESS**

Trained health staff are on-call 24 hours a day. Health staff will address first-aid and illness, as well as distribute all camper medications. If your child requires any kind of specialized medical care, please contact our staff via email at [summercamps@pathfinderranch.com](mailto:summercamps@pathfinderranch.com), at least two weeks prior to your child's visit. At the end of the orientation tour, campers are checked for lice and athlete's foot. Campers suspected of having lice will require immediate departure from camp. Upon being cleared by a medical professional, they may return. Suspected athlete's foot may or may not be treated at camp, depending on the severity.

### **WHEN ILLNESS STRIKES:**

- Campers will be sent to the camp infirmary to be evaluated by health staff.
- Any illness or injury which involves a sustained fever, repeated vomiting, severe injury, etc. will be reported by phone immediately to the parent/guardian.
- If it is determined that a camper must leave camp, a parent or guardian will be notified and asked to transport their child home.
- For everyone's benefit (yours, your child's, and ours), do not send sick children to camp.

### **MEDICATIONS AT CAMP**

- **All medications:** Medications must have their dosage, schedule, and purpose indicated, be non-expired and be in their original containers in order to be administered to campers. Campers are not permitted to carry medications on their person during camp. The exceptions are an emergency Albuterol Inhaler for asthma and an epinephrine auto-injector for anaphylaxis. Upon arrival to camp, the camper's parent/guardian will deliver any and all medications to the Pathfinder Ranch Health Staff. (For Group campers, the Liaison will deliver any and all medications to Pathfinder Ranch Health Staff).
- **Prescriptions (Rx):** In order to administer prescription (Rx) medications, we must have a record of the medication completed on your child's account. The pharmacist's label on the original container must be legible and display the camper's full name.
- **Tylenol, Benadryl, and Ibuprofen:** Pathfinder Ranch has standing orders from a physician to administer Ibuprofen, Tylenol, and Benadryl. It is not necessary to send these over the counter (OTC) medications, unless you would like them to be administered in a manner other than as directed on the manufacturer's label.
- **Other OTCs:** In order to administer OTC medications for which we do not have standing orders, we must have the completed medication information on your campers online profile.
- **Inhalers** must be marked with the camper's name using permanent marker. And like all medications they must be sent to camp with the original prescription container.
- **Pathfinder Ranch Health Staff will not administer injections.**
- **Any medication that does not comply with the above requirements will NOT be administered.**
- For any treatment a parent/guardian does not want for their child, for religious or other reasons, the parent/guardian must submit to Pathfinder Ranch, a signed statement specifying the action to be taken should the camper need care or treatment.



### **WHEN WILL THE HEALTH CENTER STAFF CONTACT YOU?**

As part of routine procedure, most medical events occurring during a camper's visit to Pathfinder Ranch will be treated and properly documented without notification of the parent/guardian. However, certain situations require that, in addition to the event being documented, the parent/guardian will be notified by a method deemed most appropriate by Pathfinder Ranch.

#### **Instances when a parent/guardian will be notified:**

- Serious injury or illness
- Suspected fractures
- Severe sprains or strains
- Moderate or repeated allergic reactions
- Asthmatic attack requiring outside medical intervention
- Loss of consciousness or unresponsiveness
- Seizure
- Snake bite
- Paramedic intervention
- Any medical situation requiring off-site treatment
- Suicidal ideation (all comments in regards to suicide, genuine or otherwise, will be treated as serious and will result in notification of the parents and possible intervention of local authorities)
- Violence against self or others
- Non-compliance with prescribed medications
- Heat stroke
- Near drowning
- Exacerbation of any pre-existing medical condition
- Situations (not already enumerated) for which the parent/guardian has made written request to be notified
- Any situation in which the health staff feels that parental notification is appropriate

#### **Suspicion of lice or nits**

Please check your child for lice prior to camp. Suspected cases of lice will result in our notifying the parent/guardian to remove the camper from Pathfinder Ranch until cleared by a qualified medical professional.

This form is here for informational and review purposes only.

**WHILE AT PATHFINDER RANCH:**

I will be honest and respectful (of my peers, my camp staff, and myself). I will follow directions and rules at camp. I will not act violently toward any camper or staff member. I will not steal or destroy property belonging to Pathfinder Ranch, other campers, or staff members. I will not use/practice lewd conduct and language. I will stay within camp boundaries. I will do my best to HAVE FUN!!!

**DISCIPLINE WILL BE HANDLED IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:**

Strike 1 – Counselor and Administrative Staff involvement with camper.

Strike 2 – Camper will speak to Summer Camp Director and Camper’s parent/guardian is notified. The parent/guardian will have an opportunity to speak to the camper.

Strike 3 – Parent/guardian is notified and camper is dismissed from camp.\*

**Verbal, emotional, and/or physically abusive behavior (bullying) will be dealt with on an individual basis and will likely result in dismissal from camp. Additionally, any camper found to be in possession of alcohol, drugs, or weapons will be immediately expelled from camp.**

\*Should a camper be dismissed from camp, pick-up and transportation from camp is solely the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

**Camper:**

The registered Camper has reviewed the Camper Code of Conduct and agrees to follow the guidelines. The Camper understands that more specific rules will be explained upon arrival at Pathfinder Ranch. The Camper also understands that failing to follow these guidelines will result in disciplinary action on the part of Pathfinder Ranch, and may include removal from the Summer Camp Program.

**Parent(s)/Guardian(s):**

I have read, understand, and agree to the information and terms presented in the Policies and Procedures. I understand that should my child require transportation from camp due to illness, behavior problems or other reasons, I will be required to provide transportation in a timely manner as designated by camp administration. If attending through an organization, failure or refusal to transport your child within the designated time frame will result in involvement of the organization.

**PACKING LIST**  
 (to be read by **parent/guardian and camper**)

The following information is what we've found to be the best combination of clothing and personal items to set camper's up for an enjoyable week at Summer Camp...storage space in the cabins is limited, so in fact "more" is not necessarily better.

- CLOTHING**
- 2 pairs of Footwear (1 pair closed-toe w/rubber soles)
  - 6 pairs of socks
  - 6 changes of underwear
  - 1-2 pairs of long pants
  - 3-4 pairs of shorts
  - 1 set of swim-wear
  - 4-5 short-sleeved shirts
  - 2 sweaters or sweatshirts
  - 1 rain jacket or waterproof poncho
  - Pajamas
  - Hat (with a brim)

- CABIN ITEMS**
- Sleeping bag
  - Pillow with pillowcase
  - Bath towel
  - Pool towel
  - Soap
  - Shampoo
  - Toothbrush & toothpaste
  - Comb/hairbrush
  - Personal hygiene items
  - Lip balm (chap stick with SPF)
  - Sunscreen (SPF 30+, will be worn every day)

- OPTIONAL ITEMS**
- Sun glasses
  - Pool/shower sandals or shoes
  - Camera
  - Bag for dirty laundry
  - A good book
  - Stamped envelopes and a pen

**IMPORTANT!!! Reusable Water Bottle:**  
 Campers must have a water bottle with them at all times in order to participate in our activities. Please pack a water bottle that is at least 28oz in size and can be reused throughout the week (not something that is likely to break or leak after a few days in camp).

**\*TRADING POST\***

For summer 2018, please do not send money with your camper. Campers will still be able to purchase snacks, drinks, stamped envelopes with Pathfinder Bucks which can be earned by campers once they arrive. T-Shirts, water bottles flying discs etc. can be purchased at our online camp store which is accessible through your registration account.

**Helpful Hints:** (remember, we've been doing this for over 50 years)

- Please bring practical outdoor clothing. We will be playing hard at camp, so don't bring your favorite outfit or new fashion shoes.
- Label all items with camper's name.
- Pack all clothing and gear into ONE (1) suitcase or duffle bag. Sleeping bag and pillow can be carried separately or in a large plastic bag.

**WHAT NOT TO BRING**

Candy, gum, food, money, radios, music players, electronic games, cell phones or other mobile devices, weapons, blow dryers, curling irons, aerosol sprays (including all body sprays), personal sports equipment, pets or other animals, or valuables. . **Drugs, alcohol, knives or other weapons will result in immediate expulsion from camp** If any of these items are found at camp, they will be collected and returned at the end of the session. **Please be aware that Pathfinder Ranch cannot be responsible for lost or stolen items so leave valuables at home.**

**Schedule Overview**  
 (to be read by **parent/guardian** and **camper**)

**Day 1 Monday**

- 12:00 - 12:30 Camper Check in
- 12:30 - 1:30 Tours
- 1:30 - 2:00 Meet in the Stack Center
- 2:00 - 3:00 Safety Skits, Intros
- 3:00 - 5:00 Move In
- 5:00 Fire Drill
- 5:30 - 6:15 Dinner
- 6:15 - 7:15 Free-time
- 7:30 - 8:45 Campfire
- 8:45 - 9:30 Embers and Bedtime

**Day 2 - 5 Tuesday - Friday**

- 7:00 - 7:45 Rise and Shine
- 7:45 - 8:30 Breakfast
- 8:30 - 8:45 Clean -up / get ready for classes
- 8:45 - 10:15 Activity 1
- 10:15 - 10:30 Transition
- 10:30- 12:00 Activity 2
- 12:00 - 12:15 Transition
- 12:15 - 1:00 Lunch
- 1:00 - 2:00 Cabin Time (ZAP)
- 2:00 - 3:30 Activity 3
- 3:30 - 3:45 Transition
- 3:45 - 5:15 Activity 4
- 5:15 - 5:30 Transition
- 5:30 - 6:15 Dinner
- 6:15 - 7:15 Free-time
- 7:15 - 7:30 Transition
- 7:30 - 8:45 Evening Program
- 8:45 - 9:30 Embers and Bedtime (on Friday this time is also used to start packing)

**Day 6 Saturday**

- 7:00 - 7:45 Rise & Shine & Pack Luggage
- 7:45 - 8:30 Breakfast
- 8:30 - 10:00 Closing Ceremonies
- 10:00 - 10:30 Camper Departures

**Where is Pathfinder Ranch?**

Pathfinder Ranch is located in the town of Mountain Center, CA -- about 1.5 hours northeast of San Diego, and 2 hours southeast of Los Angeles. We are about 1 hour from Palm Desert, Temecula, and Riverside at an elevation of about 4,600 feet.

**Who are the staff members?**

The Pathfinder Ranch summer staff is comprised of our full-time office personnel, a Summer Camp Coordinator, and seasonal Summer Camp staff, as well as our maintenance and kitchen employees. All of our staff are at least 17 years of age, and all are required to have valid CPR and First Aid Certification while working at Pathfinder Ranch. Prior to employment, all Summer Camp staff go through a thorough interview process and references are checked. Before working with any campers, a criminal history check is completed on the State (DOJ) and Federal (FBI) level. All Summer Camp staff participate in a thorough training at camp before the summer begins. The majority of them are college students interested in pursuing a career in the field of recreation or education. Many summer staff members have worked at Pathfinder Ranch in previous seasons and return because of the positive impact the camp experience had on them. We employ about 28 seasonal staff members during the summer, giving us an overall camp ratio of 1 staff member for every 5 campers.

**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 2017.

**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 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 the registration process, simply make a note of the request. You are also welcome to call us with any bunk requests. While we will do our best to accommodate these requests, we cannot guarantee that they will be met. If bunk requests are made please make sure that the person you are requesting also requests to bunk with your child. 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, Performing Arts 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 the lifeguard(s), we will also have counselors acting as lookouts who will assist in the monitoring of the pool area.

**My child is on medication. How will they get their medications at camp?**

Our Health Staff make sure that campers take their medications according to the information provided to us during registration. Be sure to read the information regarding medications on the Health and Wellness page of this packet for more details.

**What is the Trading Post?**

Please read carefully as our Trading Post has changed for summer 2018. The Trading Post is Pathfinder Ranch's "camp store". Campers will have the opportunity to buy items such as snacks, juice, embroidery floss, stamped envelopes and other novelties. Since we do not allow campers to hold cash while at camp, all Trading Post purchases will be made with Pathfinder Bucks, a camp currency given out for positive behaviors. Items such as camp T-shirts, water bottles, flying discs etc. will be available for purchase from your online account and delivered to campers on arrival day.

*\*Please keep in mind that we **require** campers to have a water bottle for all their activities at camp. If your camper did not come to camp with a water bottle, lost it during the week, or broke it due to misuse, your account may be charged for a replacement water bottle.*

### **This will be my child's first time at camp. Will they 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 their 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 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.

We encourage 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:

**NAME OF CAMPER & ARRIVAL DATE**

c/o Pathfinder Ranch  
35510 Pathfinder Rd  
Mountain Center, CA 92561

**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 group such as the Boys and Girls Club, then you *do not* need to notify Pathfinder Ranch. Groups 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 “Alternate Pickup” section of registration. 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), remember that you can update the information on your child’s account at any time by using our online system. These departure policies are in place for the safety of our campers. Please ensure that the name listed as an Alternate Pickup matches what is on your designee’s ID.

**Will 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.

**How do I change or add information on my account?**

You can log in to your account by following the links on our website. If you want additional help or just want to check to make sure you did it correctly, give us a call and we’ll be happy assist you.

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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.