

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 night 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:

- ✓ Camper Code of Conduct
- ✓ Packing List, including what not to bring
- ✓ Summer Camp Schedule Overview
- ✓ 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,  
Skylar "Bear" Sorensen  
*Summer Camp Coordinator*  
(951) 659-2455  
summercamp@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, we 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 us 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 their 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 outside of 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 (or two!), we can't wait for you to get here! (You *are* marking the days off on the calendar, right?)

See you soon!

Bear

*Summer Camp Coordinator*

& the entire Pathfinder Ranch Staff

### CAMPER ARRIVAL

Campers may arrive at Pathfinder Ranch between **12:00 pm and 1:00pm on the first day of their camp session (Monday)**. Supervision is not available to campers arriving prior to noon, and check-in windows are assigned to ensure adequate space for social distancing during check-in procedures. Correspondingly, campers who arrive before their assigned check-in window will be asked to return to camp during their designated time. Please use caution and follow the 10 mph speed limit once on camp property.

Once you arrive, you will be directed to our check-in tent. If your child has medications or medical concerns, this will be your chance to sit down with our health staff to verify our information. Additionally, staff will provide a general health screening, and campers with symptoms of illness will be asked to return home. Once you have checked in with Health Center Staff, you will be directed to the next stage of check-in, where campers will meet their counselors and be assisted in moving into their cabin.

### CAMPER DEPARTURE

The regularly scheduled departure time is between **10:00am and 11:00am on the final day of their camp session (Saturday)**. Please remember to follow the 10 mph speed limit once on camp property. As with the check-in process, you will be directed to the check-out tent. **Please be prepared to show a copy of your photo ID and if another designee is picking up your camper, remind them to do the same.** Campers will not be released to persons other than legal guardian(s) unless prior authorization has been provided by the legal guardian(s). Authorization can be given by completing the online form in your registration profile or requesting a form.

### 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 talk with your camper during their stay at camp. Campers are not permitted to use the camp phones, except in emergency situations. 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 night long so plan accordingly. Address for Camper mail is available in the Frequently Asked Questions section of this packet.

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 ACTIVITIES**

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 not 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
- 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 Requirements**

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 area requirement for 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 may restrict/adapt participation for individuals with the following conditions 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

### **Support 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 support need, we would like to review with you the ways in which we can meet those needs and provide great summer camp

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

memories. Please contact us at 951-659-2455 or [summercamp@pathfinderranch.com](mailto:summercamp@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:

Archery , Team Challenge & Hiking	<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>
Climbing Wall & Alpine Tower	<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>
Canoeing	<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>
Ground Based Horsemanship & Horseback Riding	<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>
Swimming	<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 overshirt: thin overshirts 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 to 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 framework for addressing misbehaviors and providing campers with the support they need to thrive. 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 \$32.00 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. If you need to arrange an early departure, please contact us before arriving.

### **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 only 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 [health@pathfinderranch.com](mailto:health@pathfinderranch.com), at least two weeks prior to your child's visit. As part of the check-in process, campers are inspected 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 health center 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 at 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 camper's online profile.
- **Inhalers** must be marked with the camper's name using a permanent marker. And like all medications they must be sent to camp with the original prescription container.
- **Injections:** *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, including symptoms consistent with COVID-19
- Any potential contact their camper may have had with suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19
- 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.

### **COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS**

Our most up to date policies can be found on our website: <https://pathfinderranch.com/covid-19/>.

As part of the registration process, you will be provided information outlining Covid-19 related policies and procedures. As new information becomes available, and county/state public health officials and the American Camping Association update industry guidance, these precautions, policies, and procedures may change. In the event that changes are made, you will be notified by email and may be asked to indicate receipt and acknowledgement of these changes in your registration account or at check in.



**CAMPER CODE OF CONDUCT**

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 do my best to resolve conflicts peacefully and will not act violently toward any camper or staff member. I will respect the property of others and not steal or destroy property belonging to Pathfinder Ranch, other campers, or staff members. I will use kind and respectful language and treat others with kindness and respect. I will stay within camp boundaries. I will do my best to HAVE FUN!!!

**MISBEHAVIOR**

At Pathfinder Ranch, we believe that campers want to behave in a way that allows them to have the most fun and feel a part of the group. Unfortunately, they may not always know the best way to resolve a conflict or how to behave in new situations. That's why we focus on guiding campers towards more socially appropriate behaviors and helping them to resolve harm they may have done to fellow campers and/or staff members, rather than on punishing them for mistakes. However, due to the nature of camp, some behaviors, such as purposeful violence towards oneself or others, cannot be tolerated. The following describes our framework for addressing misbehaviors and providing campers with the support they need to thrive; Program Managers will make the final decision on where misbehaviors fall in this framework:

**Non-violent misbehaviors** - Administrative staff will become involved with the camper, who will be asked to participate in a conflict/resolution circle with other involved parties, as needed and appropriate.

**Repeated non-violent misbehaviors or misbehaviors that place the camper or others at potential risk** - Camper will speak to a Program Manager and Camper's parent/guardian is notified. The parent/guardian will have an opportunity to speak to the camper. Camper will be asked to participate in conflict/resolution circles with other involved parties as needed and appropriate.

**Repeated misbehaviors that place the camper or others at potential risk, misbehaviors that create a toxic environment for others, or misbehaviors that are purposefully violent** - 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 dismissed from camp\*.**

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

## PACKING LIST

The following information is what we've found to be the best combination of clothing and personal items to set campers up for an enjoyable week at Summer Camp. Storage space in the cabins is limited, so this is one of those cases where "more" is not necessarily better.

### 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 your (the 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 bag.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CLOTHING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 pairs of Footwear (1 pair closed-toe w/rubber soles)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 6 pairs of socks</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 6 changes of underwear</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 pairs of long pants</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 pairs of shorts</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1 set of swimwear</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 5-6 short-sleeved shirts</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 sweaters or sweatshirts</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1 rain jacket or waterproof poncho</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pajamas</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hat (with a brim)</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>OPTIONAL ITEMS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Daypack or small backpack</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pool/shower sandals or shoes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Camera</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bag for dirty laundry</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A good book</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Stamped envelopes and a pen</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Silly dress-up clothes for skits, etc.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Stuffed animal or lovie for bedtime</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PERSONAL ITEMS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>2-3 properly fit facemasks</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping bag &amp; pillow with pillowcase</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 towels (1 for showering &amp; 1 for pool)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Shower soaps &amp; haircare</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush &amp; toothpaste</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Comb/hairbrush</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Personal hygiene items</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen (SPF 30+, will be worn every day)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Lip balm (chap stick with SPF)</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>IMPORTANT!!! Reusable Water Bottle:</b></p> <p>Campers <b>must</b> 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 (i.e. not something that is likely to break or leak after a few days in camp).</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WHAT NOT TO BRING</b></p> <p>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. 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.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>*TRADING POST*</b></p> <p>Please do not send money with your camper. T-Shirts, water bottles, flying discs, etc. can be purchased at our online camp store, which is accessible through our registration.</p>	

## SAMPLE SCHEDULE

<b>Day 1</b>	
12:00 - 2:00	Camper Check in & Move-in
2:00 - 5:00	Intros, Safety Skits, Cabin Agreements, & Camp Tours
5:00 - 5:30	Fire Drill
5:15 - 5:30	Transition & Wash Hands
5:30 - 6:30	Dinner
6:30 - 7:15	Cabin Free Choice Time
7:30 - 8:45	First Night Campfire
8:45 - 9:30	Embers & Bedtime

<b>Day 5</b>	
7:00 - 7:45	Rise & Shine, Final Packing
7:45 - 8:30	Breakfast
8:30 - 10:00	Closing Ceremonies
10:00 - 11:00	Camper Departures

<b>Days 2-4</b>	
7:00 - 7:45	Rise & Shine!
7:45 - 8:30	Breakfast
8:30 - 8:45	Clean-up & Get ready for classes
8:45 - 12:00	Activities (scheduled per camper interests)
12:00 - 12:15	Transition & Wash Hands
12:15 - 1:00	Lunch
1:00 - 2:00	Cabin Time (ZAP)
2:00 - 5:15	Activities (scheduled per camper interests)
5:15 - 5:30	Transition & Wash Hands
5:30 - 6:15	Dinner
6:15 - 7:15	Cabin Free Choice Time
7:15 - 7:30	Transition
7:30 - 8:45	Evening Program
8:45 - 9:30	Embers & Bedtime (Friday, also used to start packing)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### ***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 composed of our full-time office personnel, including Program Managers, and seasonal Summer Camp staff, as well as our maintenance and kitchen employees. All of our program staff are at least 18 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. Most of these summer staff members 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 review of its operation (up to 300 standards) — 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 most recently re-accredited 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*. Do remember 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 been known to rain in the summer, and therefore we recommend packing a rain jacket or rain poncho!

### ***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 12 campers, with a Lodge Counselor and two Cabin Counselors leading and staying in the cabin. Each occupied bunk is separated from others by a minimum of 6 feet, and both windows and cabin ventilation systems are used to increase air circulation and filter the air, respectively, to meet CDC recommendations.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### ***Can I request my child be in the same cabin as their 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 gender and age groups so only friends of the same gender grouping and 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 camp staff specially trained in that activity. 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. On arrival day, cabin staff brainstorm with their campers to determine what activities they want to do for the week, and that evening Lodge Counselors work together with leadership staff to craft a schedule unique to each cabin. There are also planned evening activities throughout the week such as campfire, cabin night, and stargazing.

### ***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" (asked to swim the width of the pool without resting or touching the bottom). 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 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 pages of this packet for more details.

### ***What is the Trading Post?***

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 either camp store credits (which can be purchased through your online account) or through Pathfinder Bucks (a camp currency given out for positive behaviors). Items such as camp T-shirts, water bottles, flying discs etc. are 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.*

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### ***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 their first time away from home. Some examples of things that can 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 support campers experiencing homesickness. However, if we feel that there is something that we can't work through alone, you will be contacted by a Program Manager. 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 a Program Manager 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.

### ***My child's year has been hectic/isolated/difficult due to the pandemic. Will they be ok?***

Returning to pre-pandemic activities is likely to feel challenging for many of us in the coming months. We expect to see more misbehaviors, homesickness, and need for social support than in previous summers, and we have prepared our Summer Camp staff for this with additional training and closer camper to staff ratios. Just as with homesickness, if we feel that there is something that we can't work through alone, you will be contacted by a Program Manager.

You can also help prepare your camper by talking with them about COVID-19 and how to help keep themselves and others safe. There are a wealth of resources available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on how to talk with your camper about COVID-19 at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/talking-with-children.html>. The CDC has also published a video specific to camp communities, which can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fqpQhuWY0tc>.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### ***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 a Program Manager or Health Staff.

If you simply want to check in to see how your child is doing, please call a Program Manager. 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 and a half weeks *prior* to your camper’s arrival day. Alternatively, you can leave letters for campers at drop-off, labeled with their full name and the day you would like your letter delivered. Camp staff will include these letters in the daily mail distribution, just the same as if it arrived via the postal service. Camper Mail will be distributed at Lunch.

### **Please send all postal mail to:**

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

### **Please label all drop-off mail to:**

NAME OF CAMPER  
Preferred day of deliver

### ***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.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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

Absolutely! We are planning an open house event on June 11th. All registrants will be sent information on how to participate. Registration is required so that we can ensure everyone has the ability to maintain appropriate physical distancing.

***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 to assist you.

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.