

# Camp Augusta Family Camp Weekend Information Pack

Welcome to Camp Augusta Family Camp! The following information will help you plan your trip at camp, as well as the surrounding area, if that is of interest to you. If you have any questions, please contact us!

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## **In this info package you will find the following:**

- Site, Facilities and Services – What to expect
- Programming
- Policies
- Info for parents
- Packing list and guidelines
- Miscellaneous information (optional reading)
  - Directions
  - Map
  - Augusta Philosophy & History
  - What to do in the Nevada City Area

## **EVALUATIONS**

Before you leave, please fill out and return your evaluation of the weekend. They may be placed in our anonymous evaluation box in the dining area. Evaluations shed light on areas that need attention, whether that's improved processes, communication, activity engagement, or simply something that we may not have noticed because we're here everyday and are more likely to miss the obvious than visitors. It also helps us to shed light on areas that are going well. All evaluations are typed up after you leave and used to improve our practices before the next group arrives. They are once again reviewed in the fall for any considerations that will affect our processes for the coming year.

## **Details, included in this document about Camp Augusta that often surprise people when they get here, each with more details further along in this information package:**

- Most cabins are open air and do not have electricity
- We do not have napkins or paper towels
- Showing up late for an activity may mean that you can no longer participate during that activity block
- Some activities are age restricted; others require direct adult supervision in order for a young child to participate.
- All children 6 years of age and younger must be accompanied by an adult for all activities except for saplings
- Dogs are permitted at camp! – Full policy, below.
- All large scale facility improvements and large scale new programs occur thanks to donations

# Site, Facilities and Services - What to expect

When you arrive, our energetic Camp Augusta Baggage Handlers will greet you! They will show you where to park and help you bring your luggage to your cabin or tent. If you happen to arrive at a moment when the baggage handlers are off helping other guests, rest assured that someone will be with you as soon as they have finished offering the same service to the guests that arrived before you. You will then have the opportunity to check in and sign up for your weekend activities in the lodge as well as enjoy some s'mores by the campfire.

## When Should We Arrive, And When Do People Leave?

Friday night, there is a drop-in s'mores campfire, but dinner is not served. If you are planning to arrive early, feel free to explore the Nevada City area. **Please to do not arrive at Camp Augusta before 6pm.** If you arrive in the area earlier, there are lots of local cafes, restaurants, shops and hiking trails for you to enjoy (See "What to do in Nevada City Area" page below). We often have a school group on site until 3 or 4pm. After they leave, we need to do final arrangements to clean and prepare for your arrival (including eat dinner and attend a staff meeting). If all of our prep is ready earlier than that, this may be the only hour or two that our staff will have to themselves in the last 4-5 days. Friday night is relaxed, and there is no programming – enjoy some time hanging out with the staff and new or returning families. Try and arrive while it is still daylight, so that you can move into your cabin/tent without fumbling in the dark. Bring a flashlight!! If you still have payment outstanding, please be prepared to pay it upon check-in.

You're welcome to come and go as you please, but please let us know if you plan to arrive late, or depart early. The reason is mainly for our meal count (less food waste), and so we can greet you upon arrival and say goodbye before you go. We'd also be happy to help you with your luggage – just grab one of the staff with a radio.

## Parking

The camp has many pipes below ground, and driving over them is unpleasant in several regards. Running over septic lines and leach field lines are our personal favorites. Thus, please **DO NOT** drive anywhere around camp; please park in the parking area next to the lodge unless directed elsewhere by a staff member. Staff will help you with your belongings to your cabin. Depending where you are, it may be possible to drive closer with the supervised direction of one of our staff.

## Cabins, Tents, Villages and Bathhouses

Each cabin holds 6 people. There are 4 groups of cabins – Pine, Manzanita, Oak, and Cedar. Each has 5 or 6 cabins. What do the cabins look like? Most of the kind of cabins we have are called "tent – cabins." The top is open on both sides, the "door" to the cabin is a vinyl flap, and there is no electricity. We also have 3 newer closed air cabins and other solo cabin structures. Each cabin group has its own bathhouse, which has hot water, flush toilets, sinks, electricity, and private changing and shower areas.



Some families might stay in our deluxe platform tents, nearly 200 square feet in size. We put mattresses in them, so that they are just as comfortable (if not more so), than the cabins. Families may also bring their own tents (please let us know if you plan to do this). Families in tents will use the bathhouses located within the cabin groups. All bathhouses are co-ed (except Pine). As we fundraise for facility improvements, all new bathhouses will have the ability to be split into two for gender division.

**Please do not keep food in your cabin or tent. Any small amount of food may attract wildlife to your area.**

## Water

All the tap water at Camp Augusta is drinkable. It is either tested well water or water from a municipal source, depending where you are at camp. The creek and lake are not safe to drink from. Also, the water is NOT potable from our hoses.

## **!!! PLEASE BRING A WATER BOTTLE !!!**

### **Cell Phones & Camp Phones**

They don't work at camp, but they do 3-5 minutes up the road. We have 2 phones in the office with unlimited long distance that you are welcome to use at any time.

### **Health At Camp**

We carry basic first aid supplies at camp, and have first-aid-trained staff. Please bring any medications with you. Should something more be required, there are clinics in the local area. Ambulances are 7-10 minutes away, and the local hospital is about 10-15 minutes away.

Note that we do have bees at Camp Augusta and the surrounding areas. If you or any of your family are allergic (or suspect you may be allergic) to bees, please bring your own "Epi-Pen," and any other items you may have been prescribed. Stings are EXTREMELY rare, but better prepared than not.

### **Foes of the Forest**

Our forest contains **poison oak**. If you stay on the paths, you are unlikely to come in contact with poison oak, however, please be cautious wherever you go. If you don't know what it looks like, just ask any of our staff to point some out!

The forest does have **ticks** here. If you stay on the paths, you are less likely to encounter them. At night, please check yourself for any new bumps. If you have a tick, ask a staff member how to remove it or follow these simple instructions: Use a pair of tweezers, grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible and pull straight out (don't twist), check to see if the head was removed. If you're concerned about Lyme Disease, keep the tick in a plastic bag with gauze so a doctor can analyze it.

As in any non-urban area, while at camp there is an elevated risk of insect bites, including mosquito and tick bites, which can result in diseases such as West Nile virus, Lyme disease, and other illnesses. Be aware that all guests should come to camp with adequate supplies of insect repellent, and that while camp will use every reasonable effort to assist you in the application of repellent, due to humidity, perspiration and other naturally recurring events, as well as the nature of insect behavior, camp cannot guarantee that you will not be bitten and/or stung by an insect. We advise you to discuss the importance of prevention with my child, and to instruct him/her to let you or a staff member know about any insect bites. For your child's protection staff members are not permitted to inspect my child for the presence of ticks or other bites, and my child understands that he/she must perform self-inspections for this purpose. We advise you to examine yourself and your children upon return home for ticks and other evidence of insect bites or stings and to take the necessary medical precautions. For additional information concerning insect borne illnesses consult The American Lyme Disease Foundations' website at <http://www.aldf.com/lyme.shtml>, and the US Government Center for Disease Control and Prevention website at <http://www.cdc.gov>, as well as state and local information.

### **Help us keep Camp Augusta clean!**

We do our best to keep all facilities clean and free of waste. Please help us in this endeavor by keeping your cabin/tent, bathhouses, dining area and all other areas tidy. There are spray bottles and cloths available in the dining area to help keep the tables clean after meals. Each bathhouse is equipped with at least one broom, which can be used for your cabin as long as you return it when you are done.

### **Dining at Augusta**

Dining at Augusta is often considered a treat by many, with the homemade, largely organic foods freshly prepared with love. A sample menu can be found on our website and a draft menu for your weekend visit will be sent out approximately one week in advance. If you have any dietary restrictions, please let us know in advance and we will do our best to accommodate. Also note that dining is outdoors, rain or shine.

Food will be provided for 3 meals of the day, as outlined on the weekend schedule. There will be fruit in the dining area available if you'd like to snack and snacks will be provided for parents during Parent Hour and kids at Kids' Games. If you'd like to bring your own food or would like more to snack on, please keep your food in your car and NOT in your cabin or tent and please take note of allergies such as peanuts.

***Please note that food is NOT provided on Friday night so please eat before you arrive. There are dining options available in Nevada City and if you're interested in hearing more about those options please call us and ask.***

## Conservation on our minds



We love the environment and to promote responsible citizenship of the earth! Please help us conserve waste by following the **guidelines listed for compost and recycling** on the bins in the dining area. In addition, our bathhouses and dining area do not have paper towel or napkins. Instead we let our hands air dry (takes no time at all!!). If you wish to have a napkin at meals we suggest bringing along your own handkerchief.

## Hammock Village

Can be visited without signing up. Only bare feet inside the hammock village, and relaxed swinging only please!



## Swimming Options

The lake is available for swimming at any time at your own risk, to those over 18 or children with parental supervision, in our roped-off swimming area. If the weather is warm, and the desire is present, we will offer dedicated swimming times with a lifeguard. Note that the canoeing lifeguard is not responsible for keeping an eye on swimmers as it takes their attention away from their primary task. If you wish to go swimming and want to arrange a lifeguard to be present, just ask the staff and we will do our best to accommodate! Both waterfalls on site have swimming options as well. Secret Pool has a swimming hole and Gypsy Falls has a wading pool at the bottom of it. Note that depending on the rains and the weather, the water may be very cold in the spring. We ask that nobody goes swimming once the sun has gone down for your own safety.

## Fishing

If you are a fishing enthusiast note that fishing requires an off-site trip to Scott's Flat Lake or the Yuba River. We are happy to provide you with a document containing directions and info on good fishing holes. Just ask!

Scott's Flat: <http://www.scottsflatlake.net/>

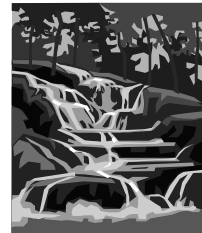
Yuba River: <http://www.gofishn.com/content/south-yuba-river-nevada-county-california>

## Gypsy Falls

The Waterfall can be visited without signing up.

### **PLEASE DO NOT**

- Disturb sand, rocks, or plants in any way – lots of creatures live in this special place.
- Pick up salamanders or newts – simply picking them up can harm them.
- Dig, pick up, throw, or move anything – including living things. This is their home.
- **Climb on the falls or rocks – it is extremely slippery!** If you choose to do this, you are assuming all risk. 3 points of contact at all times will help to keep you safe, but are still often not enough.
- Make noise above normal conversation – the creatures and neighbors don't like it.
- Go beyond the waterfall – that is the camp boundary



### **PLEASE DO**

- Enjoy looking at the falls
- Wade gently in the water
- Look for creatures that have this place as their home – salamanders, small fish, pollywogs, lizards, insects, birds, etc. You may observe them, but please do not touch them, they are easily hurt by giants. Especially note the black and red salamanders, which are harmed by simply being picked up

## Yuba River (off-site)

If you visit the Yuba River during your stay, please be aware that there are areas where people choose clothing-optional swimming. Also, be aware that the current may be fairly strong during the spring or in years with increased rainfall earlier in the season.

## **More on programming and the schedule...**

## **Contra Dancing (Saturday night on the field – so much fun that staff like to return for family camps, just to participate!)**

Contra dancing or barn dancing consists of familiar square dance type moves done in long-ways sets, some circles and even a few traditional squares. It is fun and people of all ages find it easy to learn. This dance features live calling and live music that is absolutely energizing and, while fairly fast moving, is very forgiving. An American traditional dance form that originated from English and French roots in the 1600's, Contra Dance thrived through the early 1900's, survived in small pockets of the northeast, resurfaced in the 1950's and by the 1970's had experienced a renaissance, spreading across the country and growing in popularity. Contra dancing is an excellent way to unite both friends and strangers in a lighthearted, fun, and engaging manner. If you've never danced before, a Contra Dance is a great way to start.

## **Camp Songs!**

Over the last few years we have been collecting videos and recordings of camp songs being performed at Camp Augusta. If you wish to practice some lyrics before you arrive, scroll to the bottom of this page:

<http://campaugusta.org/summer/magical/>

New songs are often added each year, but if you have any requests during your stay, please let us know.

## **Age/Size limited activities (safety first!)**

Children 7 years and younger need direct parent supervision: Archery, Archery Clout, Throwing Range, Ancient Weaponry (must be able to draw the crossbow back), Candle Making and Batik

Must be 8 years old or older: Riflery

Must be able to find a helmet that fits (if a child wishes to participate, please try on helmets on Friday night): Battle Royale, Sword Fighting, Quarter Staff

Must be 4ft or taller: Whip, Pod A, B, C & D

Must be 70-180 lbs: Aerial Bungee

Must be 75-250 lbs: High Zipline and Canopy Tour

**\*\*Please check sign up slips carefully for any restrictions as they may have changed since the writing of this document.**

## **Timeliness to activities**

Many of our activities (including archery, ancient weaponry, throwing range, whip, high zip and others) have an element of risk associated with them. With that in mind, it is vital that participants arrive in time for the start of these clinics so they can hear all the necessary safety instructions and be able to participate safely. Arriving late means that the facilitator needs to repeat the instructions which can slow down the flow of the clinic and result in it running over time. Please support our staff and the other guests by committing to being at activity areas on time. Also, please be aware that arriving late to a particularly risky activity may result in the facilitator asking you to join a different activity and signing up for that activity again later.

## **Mountain Biking**

If you are interested in mountain biking in the area, we have trail maps that we will be happy to share with you!

Depending on other family camp requests and availability of skilled staff, we may even have someone who can lead a group of you on a local trail. Bring your bikes along and let us know of your interest!

## **Store**

The Camp Augusta Store will be open on Saturday and Sunday at lunch time in the dining area.

## **When you head to bed...**

What do the staff do at the end of the day? We meet to discuss the day and collect process notes of things that worked and did not work or could use improvement. This is called Knowledge Management. If you'd like to offer your thoughts, come along and join us! We'd love to have you. We usually go around at the end and share any funny stories from the day as well.

# Camp Augusta Policies

**Alcohol:** Camp Augusta is not licensed to serve wine or beer, however with good judgment and consideration, alcohol is allowed for adults who want to bring their own to enjoy with their meal or at Parents' Hour. BYOB. Feel free to bring a cooler. We have very limited ice available for use in our kitchen so please bring your own if you wish. Within reason, we do have refrigerator space. Please clean up after yourself and ensure that any cans or bottles are placed in the appropriate recycling bins while bottle caps are placed in trash bins. Any alcohol that is left unattended will be dumped by a staff member as we do not want it in the hands of any young campers. Alcohol is not a primary focus of the Camp Augusta experience and we invite you to be mindful of the experience of other guests and children during your time at camp. Also, please do not drink alcohol in the lake.

**Dogs:** If Camp Augusta is a piece of heaven, and all dogs go to heaven, then here come a few dogs to Camp Augusta! In bringing your dog, please consider the basics of caring, responsibility, and respect. For example, people generally like to eat without sad dog eyes and licked lips by their side, hearing barking when they are trying to sleep, or being jumped on when they'd rather admire the animal's wonderful and beautiful nature from a bit more distance. Note that riflery, archery, and javelins (and sometimes horses) are used at camp, all of which are unhealthy for free roaming and unaware dogs. Also note that some of the chemicals used in the arts and crafts area may be toxic to dogs if they drink from the buckets (e.g. tie dye chemicals). A good camp dog is also aware of the camp surroundings, knows that there are things out there that can hurt it like skunks and raccoons, and asks very politely for attention. Dogs come in all sizes, and very small and very large dogs are both likely. Although we are all EXTREMELY unlikely to see one, there are bears and mountain lions in the area as well. Dog fertilizer (poop) is fine at camp as long as it is not in a trafficked area. In the main area of camp, dog poo needs to be cleaned up by dog owners, unless it is clearly in a bushy area. The trees and bushes appreciate it. Because of dog speak, we try to put all families with dogs in the same village together. Please notify Camp Augusta if you are bringing a dog.

Our top concern is safety, both for people and for animals. Below are a few points to note if you are bringing a dog:

- Please keep your dog on leash and with a responsible person during activity periods (free roaming dogs may get into areas that don't intuitively seem dangerous to them, like the back of the throwing range), during Contra Dancing and during meal times.
- It is important that dogs in the lake do not climb onto our trampoline or water mats. These are very expensive to replace and dog claws will destroy them.
- During times other than activity periods and meal times, your dog is free to be off leash if they are supervised by a family member. To be supervised, the dog must stay within your eyesight and be respectful, quiet and polite.
- Dogs that like to chase – we have a quad that our staff use to efficiently transport equipment. Dogs that like to chase cars also like to chase the quad. If your dog likes to chase things or people, please keep them on a leash at all times.
- Leaving dogs in cabins/tents/cars – for your animal's safety, please be very cautious about leaving them alone in your sleeping space. Dogs in a new space alone can become anxious, resulting in nervous behaviors. Also be aware that the tents and the inside of cars can become very hot, very quickly. Leaving dogs inside can be VERY dangerous.
- Dogs that get nervous around large numbers of people or strange noises often struggle here.
- Please scoop poop in the main areas of camp or on walking paths, even if it's not your dog's.

**Note: if your dog were to ever be aggressive to any participant, staff member or another animal at camp, you will be asked to keep your dog muzzled, on a leash and supervised at all times. We reserve the right to ask you to remove your dog from our property should it ever show aggressive behavior.**

**Noise:** We request your help in enforcing **Quiet hours from 10pm to 7am.** There will be younger siblings who will need to get to bed early. Keep in mind that voice travels really well in the stillness of the night.



**Smoking:** Considering that you are coming to enjoy your time in the dry woods, we ask that if you MUST do so, that you dispose of your butts responsibly and that you smoke only at the entrance to camp and not around any activity or eating areas. This includes no smoking by the creek and Gypsy Falls.

**Supervision:** Kids are to be encouraged to congregate in the Dining Area or Campfire Circle near the parking lot.

**Tips and Gratuities:** There are no tips or gratuities. A simple thank you is quite sufficient. Camp Augusta does maintain a "Gifts of Love" list, for items we would like to have to improve the camp, and a fund toward our Camperships (scholarships for summer camp). <http://campaugusta.org/gifts/>

We are also working to replace various areas of camp, and without exception those are done via donations, not usage fees. Future campers and families would love to take advantage of any generosity you're capable of.

# Parental Guidelines & Additional Information

- ❖ **Please be with your children whenever they are not in one of our programs or on their way to one of our programs.** It can be easy to get lost, and there are dangerous places around camp. If you do leave a child capable of fully participating in one of our programs, please return to pick them up at the end of the period or set up a meeting place so they know where to find you. (Children under the age of 8 must be supervised by a parent during activities. **Some activities listed earlier in this package require DIRECT parental supervision, and not just a parent that is also participating in the activity.**)
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- ❖ Note that in family camps, we do not require kids to stay with us (except for Kids' Club) for the whole activity block. If your child participates in an activity without you around, we'll keep them safe during their participation but our main focus is on the activity and we cannot track the flow of kids in and out of the area as there is no way of us knowing whether you had arranged to meet with them.
  - ❖ The exception to the above point is Kid's Games – which is a time of day that our staff will be solely responsible for the kids while the parents are at Parents' Hour. The kids will be dropped off at the campfire circle while the parents will enjoy snacks and relaxation.
  - ❖ **Also note that kids traveling alone to activities on the waterfront or field will need to cross the street. We do not have crossing guards throughout the day (only to start and end the Contra Dance), and instructors meet participants who arrive on time at the pathway to the field, so please be sure to drop off and pick up your child on time if you do not wish for them to cross the street on their own.**
  - ❖ For picky eaters, bread, jam, or cheese is available at all meals *by request only*. Our staff is happy to accommodate picky eaters with some advanced notice. Closer to your date of arrival, we will be posting draft schedules of what the food might look like to give you an idea of what to expect. Due to the severity of some nut allergies, Camp Augusta has chosen to become a nut-free kitchen. Lazy Dog ice cream however is not nut free but they do carry some nut-free varieties if we ask them ahead of time.
  - ❖ Lost and found can be found in the dining area along the fence to the right of the costume closet. Please make a plan to stop by the lost and found before you leave. We already have enough of our own clothes!
  - ❖ Safety is really important to us. Some activity equipment is only made in limited sizes. The program equipment at camp fits most 7 year olds and older. If your child is smaller than average, please be aware that there may be some activities which are not safe for them to participate in due to inadequate safety equipment, like specialized sword-fighting helmets. On sign-up slips we post minimum ages based on average size and on average ability to stay focused on a (dangerous) task. Please ask a staff member if you have questions about the safety or ability of your child's participation in any activity.
  - ❖ Activity Sign-ups: Parents, if you plan to participate in an activity, please put your name on a separate line of the signup sheet as well. On Friday night, please only sign up once during the weekend for an activity (especially popular activities like Zip Lines and the Giant's Swing) to allow other guests the chance to try it out as well. If you would like to participate more than once you are free to check in the lodge for availability Saturday morning or right before an activity starts.
  - ❖ First aid kits are in the office, at major program areas, and with most staff members – **remember your water bottle!**
  - ❖ If, after your Camp Augusta experience, you are interested in sending your kids to summer camp here, please inquire with the office elves about what that process looks like. Please be aware that priority goes to returning campers and campers already on the wait list.
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## Housing Assignment Process

In case you are interested in the process for allocating housing for guests, below are several factors that are considered throughout the process:

- ❖ **Cabin preferences** – Some folks will outright request a specific cabin.
- ❖ **Cabin or Tent?** – Most families will choose one or the other for various reasons.
- ❖ **Friendship groups** – Families will be excited to spend time together. Sometimes they will request to be near their friends so we try to make that happen, where possible.
- ❖ **Dogs** – Not everyone wants to have dogs running around, or potentially barking in the early morning.
- ❖ **Very young children** – Families with children who are 3 or under are likely to have a more positive experience at camp if they are close to a bathhouse, and/or if they are in an enclosed cabin. Young children often cry, and so enclosed cabins contain more of the noise. Additionally enclosed cabins are warmer and have more floor space for placing a cot or cradle.
- ❖ **Older people (e.g. grandparents)** – Similar to the above, older people usually will be more comfortable in enclosed cabins and closer to a bathroom if at all possible.
- ❖ **Health conditions** – This is rare, but sometimes we host families with a member who is disabled, or who is in need of oxygen occasionally and so needs to be in a space where electricity is supplied. Housing preference is for these families to be close to main camp, and if they need electricity they will have preference of the nurse's cabin or the small yurt.
- ❖ **The size of the family** – Family size will range from usually 2-6 people. Depending on how big the entire group is, families may need to be housed together (this is more likely during a Gold Rush). Cabins cannot hold more than 6, for fire regulation purposes. In allocating housing, we keep genders the same and check in with the families about combining them. Sometimes to fit everybody, we may need to have 2 or 3 families sharing the same housing for the weekend.
- ❖ **Age of the children** – It's so great to see children creating play for themselves! We try to group similar aged children in the same villages to support this.





# Packing List and Guidelines

## CLOTHING LIST

T-shirts and Shirts  
Shorts  
Long pants  
Underclothes  
Pairs of Socks (including one pair of Wool or Synthetic Socks)  
Sandals or water shoes  
Sneakers or other closed-toed shoes (many activities require these!)  
Sweatshirt/Light Jacket  
Swimsuits  
Bath Towel & Wash Cloth sets  
Night Clothes  
Poncho/Raincoat  
Hat – *Protection from sun*

## BEDDING

Sheets (twin) to cover mattress (sleep in sleeping bag)  
Plastic Sheet – *for bed wetter*  
**Warm** sleeping bag  
Pillow & Pillow Case

## OTHER ITEMS

Toiletries/Shower Bag/Shampoo  
Soap & Soap Dish  
Toothbrush & Toothpaste  
Comb/Brush  
**Water bottle**  
Watch  
Laundry Bag  
Ear Plugs  
Flashlight with batteries and spares (more than one per family & packed in an accessible location)  
Bug Repellent (non-aerosol) with Low Deet – more is not better  
Suntan Lotion/Sun Block  
Camera (with name on it!!)  
White, 100% cotton items to tie dye. We also have things that can be purchased.  
Medications

## OPTIONAL

Mountain bike and/or bike gloves and helmet  
Fishing pole  
Books and magazines  
Lounge chairs  
Gloves for climbing activities  
Back Pack  
Sunglasses  
Fluorescent camping lantern  
Cloth napkin/Handkerchief (if you like napkins at meals)

## Do NOT Bring

Valuables  
Boom boxes  
Electronic games  
Computers  
iPods/MP3s  
Fireworks  
Candy  
Gum  
Aerosol Cans  
Guns or Knives  
Tobacco products  
Jewelry  
Skateboards  
Roller blades  
Laser Pointers or  
Flashlights with Laser  
Pointers

**Please DO NOT  
bring any food into  
the cabins/tents.  
Even the small  
amount of crumbs  
may attract  
unwanted pests &  
wildlife.**

Camp Augusta  
17530 Lake Vera Road  
Nevada City, CA 95959  
Tel. (530) 265-3702

E-mail:  
office@campaugusta.org

## **More Details on What to bring...**

Come to camp prepared to participate in physical activities, keep warm during the evenings, cool during the days, and with enough clothes to remain clean, healthy, and happy campers. When packing, please consider the weather. We encourage you to use old clothing, as you will be camping out, climbing, and hiking through the woods. Note that some people find open sandals to be uncomfortable while walking on wood chips. For climbing activities, you will find long shorts or long pants to be more comfortable. Consider light-colored clothing if the temperature is going to be hot.

Luggage should be compact and easy to carry – duffels are great. We have a luggage service from the parking lot to the cabin or tent where you will be staying. Please try to arrive before 10pm on Friday, as it is impossible not to disturb other families with late arrivals.

Please review and respect the “What not to Bring” list. Achieving the social objectives we set forth for our campers requires the creation of a particular camp and social community. Things such as iPods, games, and boom boxes work directly against these objectives, and hamper the experience and social growth of all of our campers.

Although the temperature during the day in May and early September can be quite warm (75-100°F in May; 75-95°F in early Sept.), at night it can drop to 50°F. It is therefore important that you and your family pack warm sleeping bags to ensure a good night’s rest, and bring extra bedding if you feel you will need it. Note that the temperature rating on sleeping bags is the temperature at which it will keep you alive, not the temperature at which you will be comfortable. Staff members tend to have sleeping bags with ratings of 15-30° F and sleep comfortably. You will receive an email from us a week or two prior to your visit where we will include the weather forecast amongst other helpful reminders!

Note that cell phones do not work at Camp Augusta, but there are two phone lines in the office with unlimited long distance at your disposal. There is always fruit available to snack on. There is a parents’ hour for adults Saturday before dinner, and families also sometimes choose to enjoy an alcoholic beverage with meals – it is BYOB.

### **Donations –**

For many, summer camp is a foundational experience. For a first-time camper, it might be a time to try new activities or make new friends. For a staff member, it’s the first time they are entrusted with meaningful responsibility or are asked to design an activity. Whatever it is, summer camp allows for growth and development for all involved, and we need a strong foundation to provide for that.

The magic of Augusta doesn’t happen on its own. It takes the generosity and kindness of people to say "I"!!!. Thanks to donations, thousands of children have the opportunity to enjoy flying through the air on huge swings, learn how to blacksmith, challenge themselves to unicycle and so much more. We’re committed to changing the lives of children who come here and we’re very much seeking to support of those who can help Augusta be a life-touchstone regardless of what winds may blow.

If you'd like to make a donation, please speak with Randy or Kerry.

# Directions

## Narrative Directions from the Bay Area

1. From anywhere in the Bay Area, access to camp can be gained through taking Interstate 80 East, towards Sacramento. Just before Sacramento, follow regular (not business) 80 towards Reno. Right hand exit.
2. Pass through Sacramento and start climbing into the foothills until you reach Auburn. (About 35 miles)
3. Take the Highway 49 exit and head North, towards Grass Valley and Nevada City (left).
4. In approximately 25 miles, you will pass through Grass Valley. Next you will pass through Nevada City.
5. Immediately after leaving Nevada City, turn left on Highway 49 North, towards Downieville. You want to be in the left lane to get onto 49 North.
6. Turn on the second right (first traffic light) on North Bloomfield Road.
7. Wind uphill for about 1/2 mile and arrive at a three-way intersection, take the left turn that goes downhill, Lake Vera-Purdon Road.
8. Our driveway is 2.1 miles from this intersection.
9. Turn left at the "Camp Augusta" sign, and you are here!



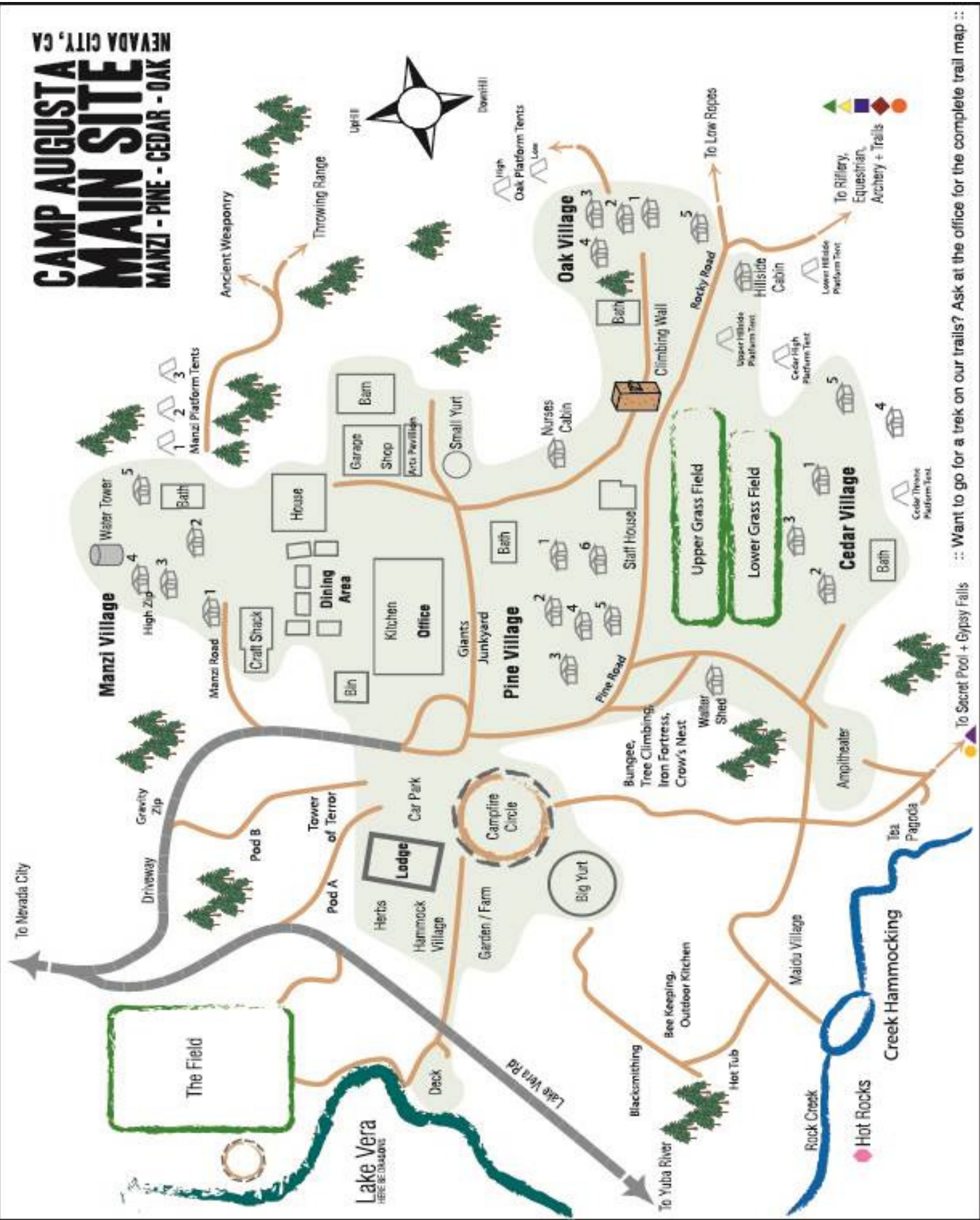
## Empire Mine

Did you know that you are staying in the heart of gold country? Why not visit a historic mine? The Empire Mine is the site of the oldest, largest, and richest gold mine in California. From 1850 to its closing in 1956, it produced 5.8 million ounces of gold. This 5.8 million ounces of gold would fill a box 7 feet on each side. It is estimated that this represented only 20% of the available gold...80% remains. The Park contains many of the original mine buildings, the owner's cottage and the restored gardens and grounds as well as the entrance to 367 miles (the equivalent of a round trip from Grass Valley to San Jose) of abandoned and flooded shafts and tunnels. The park consists of 845 acres of forested backcountry and 12 miles of trails for hikers, bikers and horseback riders. Entrance fee is \$3 for adults over 16

years and \$1 for children over 5 years old. Guided tours are available for only \$2.00 and their hours are 9am-6pm May-Sept. Visit <http://www.empiremine.org/> for more information.

# CAMP AUGUSTA MAIN SITE

NEVADA CITY, CA  
MANZI - PINE - CEDAR - OAK



Want to go for a trek on our trails? Ask at the office for the complete trail map ::

# Augusta Philosophy

## **Challenge by Choice – Camp Augusta’s program philosophy**

*Challenge by Choice asks that participants challenge themselves and participate fully in the experience. Recognizing that any activity or goal may pose a different level and type of challenge for each group member and that authentic personal change comes from within, Challenge by Choice creates an environment where participants are asked to search for opportunities to stretch and grow during the experience. The determination of what kind of participation represents an optimal learning opportunity is the responsibility of each group member.*

(Source: <http://www.pa.org/about/glossary.php#>)

What does this mean? Challenge by choice means that each child or adult sets their own goals and works to achieve them on their own terms. It means that parents are not setting goals for their children, or vice-versa. If someone chooses to make it half way up the climbing wall that is equally as valid as someone who wishes to go all the way. It is the participant’s personal challenge and they do not need to share with others if they don’t wish to. In this environment, we choose to give descriptive praise, (e.g. “That was great how you reached for the yellow rock”) and avoid any comments, which might minimize someone’s efforts (e.g. “Good try”, “You can do it!” or any count downs). Challenge by choice then creates a safe environment where people are challenged to push themselves as far as they want to go.

## **Camp Augusta’s philosophy**

Families often inquire about the philosophy of Camp Augusta – what are the values, principles, and methods that make it tick? Interested families may learn more about that from five main sources.

1. Camp Augusta’s “Partnering with Parents” section of the website, as well as over 180 other pages.  
<http://www.campaugusta.org/Partnering/partnering.html>
2. What’s Special about Camp Augusta? In particular, check out the link to “Opportunities and Challenges.”  
<http://www.campaugusta.org/Summer/CAD/cad.html>
3. Reading the director’s website about creating exceptional camps  
<http://www.visionrealization.com/>
4. Food nourishes the soul as much as the body. Follow this link to read about Camp Augusta’s Food philosophy.  
<http://www.campaugusta.org/About/Food/food.html>
5. Safety at Augusta. Follow this link to learn more about our philosophy on risk.  
<http://www.campaugusta.org/About/Safety/safety.html>
6. Speaking with the director (Randy) or outdoor education director while you are at camp!

### **If you have any questions, please contact us.**

17530 Lake Vera Rd, Nevada City CA 95959

Phone: 530-265-3702

Email: [office@campaugusta.org](mailto:office@campaugusta.org)

# Camp Augusta - A Brief History

Mrs. Ehman, a resident of Piedmont, donated Camp Augusta in 1931. It was named after her mother, Augusta. Lake Vera was the first hydroelectric plant West of the Mississippi, created by then PG&E. The power was for the gold-mining operations in the area, and Rock Creek, which flows through Camp Augusta and feeds the waterfalls on site, was the most-panned creek in the Gold-Rush era. Lake Vera got its name from the CEO of PG&E at the time, whose daughter's name was Vera.

Camp Augusta was an all-girls camp, because Mrs. Ehman donated it to the girls of Piedmont. She didn't want to run the camp herself, and so the camp was placed in the care of other interested organizations. Camp Augusta was originally held by Piedmont Girls' Community Service, Inc., which took over the Camp Fire charter in the 40's and became Piedmont Council of Camp Fire, Inc. When Camp Augusta's charter was revoked in 1993, the name of the corporation was changed to Camp Augusta, Incorporated.

At no point has the City of Piedmont ever owned or operated Camp Augusta. To this day, the City offers zero financial service to Camp Augusta. The relationship is to the residents of Piedmont by Camp Augusta.

From its inception until the 90's, Camp Augusta was an all-girls camp. Camp Fire sold other properties around the lake: Watanda, Minaluta, and Ceilio. Camp Fire tried to sell Camp Augusta, but three board members from Piedmont asserted that Camp Fire did not own the camp, and could not sell it. After a couple years of litigation, Camp Augusta was declared an independent entity, and run as Camp Augusta. For several years before and after this turbulent time, Camp Augusta was not used very much, and very little work was done to maintain or improve the camp. It became a co-ed camp in an effort to gain the enrollment necessary to sustain itself.

In the new millennium, Camp Augusta really started to rebuild itself as a summer camp for children and families. In 2003, Camp Augusta ran 7 weeks of summer camp, one general family camp, and three Gold Rush programs for Piedmont Schools. At that time, resident camp was about 50% enrolled, with a co-ed program hosting a little over 20 programs/activities. Now, Camp Augusta runs 9 weeks of summer camp, two general family camps, 2 private family camps and three Gold Rush programs, as well as hosting several retreats, weddings, and outdoor education programs for other school groups. Camp Augusta is fully enrolled in all of its programs, and offers over 100 different activities to its summer campers.

Piedmont residents receive first priority in all of Camp Augusta's programs. During the summer programs, about 50% of the campers come from Piedmont. That percentage has been growing over the last few years, and it is hoped that the trend continues. The rest of the campers come from open enrollment and camp is filled from children all over California, as well as other states and countries.



# What to do in Nevada City Area

## *Top 10 Things To Do In The Area*

### General Information

<http://new.mynevadacounty.com/visitors/>

<http://www.nevadacitychamber.com/>

- ❖ Empire Mine State Park (Highly Recommended!!)  
<http://www.empiremine.org>  
[http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page\\_id=499](http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=499)
- ❖ Yuba River  
<http://www.yubariver.org>  
[http://parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page\\_id=496](http://parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=496)
- ❖ Nevada City proper  
“Nevada City has been recognized as California’s best preserved and most beautiful Gold Rush town. It has been featured in numerous publications and has been selected as one of the 100 best small towns in America. Browse through interesting shops, sip local wine, sample excellent cuisine and enjoy local hospitality.” This 300-yard stretch of town is just 5 minutes away from camp.
- ❖ Music In The Mountains Summer Fest  
<http://www.musicinthemountains.org>
- ❖ Nevada County Arts  
<http://nevadacountyarts.org/artscollaborative/>  
<http://www.thecenterforthearts.org>
- ❖ Nevada Theatre  
<http://www.nevadatheatre.com/>
- ❖ Off Broadstreet Theatre – often starting a past Augustan counselor!  
<http://www.offbroadstreet.com/>
- ❖ Penn Valley Rodeo  
<http://www.pennvalleyrodeo.com/>
- ❖ Arts and Events listed in “The Union,” the local newspaper  
<http://www.theunion.com>
- ❖ The Aerial Lab  
<http://www.theaeriallab.com/>
- ❖ Loma Rica Ranch  
<http://www.localharvest.org/loma-rica-ranch-organic-farm-M17747>
- ❖ Clair Tappaan Lodge  
<http://www.ctl.sierraclub.org/>
- ❖ Local Bulletin Boards  
There is a rich community of activities that don’t often get listed in the normal venues. Check out the boards at these locations for an eclectic fair! Briar Patch Co-op Market, Planet Juices, Afternoon Deli, & Coffee Roasters

## *Hiking and Biking*

- ✓ South Yuba Trail <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/folsom/yubacampground.html>
- ✓ Malakoff Diggins [http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page\\_id=494](http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=494)
- ✓ Nevada County Biking [http://www.nevadacitychamber.com/play/area\\_bike.cfm](http://www.nevadacitychamber.com/play/area_bike.cfm)

## ***Dining***

Before or after you have a chance to sample our fine camp cuisine (seriously!), you might want to visit these fine eateries. Some people come up early or stay after the Camp Augusta kitchen has closed to just enjoy the area. If that's your plan, we recommend the following. Indicates Local foods (🇺🇸), Indicates some or all Organic foods (∞)

- ✓ South Pine Café (Breakfast and Lunch) - \$\$  
110 South Pine St, Nevada City, CA 95959 – (530) 265-0260  
<http://southpinecafe.com/index.html>
- ✓ Ikes' Quarter Café (Breakfast and Lunch) - \$\$, 🇺🇸∞  
401 Commercial St, Nevada City, CA 95959 – (530) 265-6138  
<http://www.ikesquartercafe.com/>
- ✓ Summer Thymes (Breakfast and Lunch) - \$  
421 Colfax Ave, Grass Valley, CA 95945 – (530) 273-2904  
<http://www.summerthymes.com/>
- ✓ Mekka Café (Coffee House) - \$  
237 Commercial Street, Nevada City, CA 95959 – (530) 478-1517
- ✓ Afternoon Deli (Lunch) - \$, ∞  
101 W McKnight Way, Grass Valley, CA 95949 – (530) 273-6066
- ✓ Friar Tucks (Dinner) - \$\$\$  
111 N. Pine St, Nevada City, CA 95959 – (530) 265-9093  
<http://www.friartucks.com/>
- ✓ New Moon (Lunch and Dinner) - \$\$\$\$ , 🇺🇸∞  
203 York Street, Nevada City, CA 95959  
<http://www.thenewmooncafe.com/>
- ✓ Sopa Thai (Dinner) - \$\$  
312-316 Commercial St, Nevada City, CA 95959 – (530) 470-0101  
<http://www.sopathai.net/>
- ✓ Kaido's Sushi (Dinner) - \$\$\$  
207 W Main St, Grass Valley, CA 95945 – (530) 274-0144  
<http://www.kaidosushi.com/>
- ✓ Briar Patch Co-op Community Market (Breakfast, lunch and dinner) - \$/\$\$, 🇺🇸∞  
290 Sierra College Dr, Grass Valley, CA 95945 – (530)-272-5333  
[www.briarpatch.coop](http://www.briarpatch.coop)
- ✓ Sushi Q (Dinner) - \$\$\$  
328 Commercial St, Nevada City, CA 95959 – (530) 265-5757
- ✓ Diegos Restaurant (lunch and dinner) - \$\$/\$\$\$, 🇺🇸∞  
217 Colfax Avenue • Grass Valley, CA 95945 – (530) 477-1460  
<http://www.diegosrestaurant.com/>
- ✓ Lazy Dog Ice Cream - 🇺🇸 – if you liked it so much when they visited over the weekend, check out their website to find out where they can be found on your day of departure! <http://www.spotlazydog.com/>

## ***Museums***

- ✓ Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad  
<http://www.ncngrmuseum.org/>
- ✓ Truckee's historic jail museum  
<http://www.truckeehistory.org/old-jail-museum.html> North Star Mining Museum  
“This museum occupies an old powerhouse and includes one of the state's best collections of gold mining memorabilia.”  
[http://www.ncgold.com/Museums\\_Parks/Northstar/index.html](http://www.ncgold.com/Museums_Parks/Northstar/index.html)
- ✓ Firehouse No. 1 Museum  
<http://malakoff.com/goldcountry/mcnevahc.htm>
- ✓ Donner Memorial State Park (and Donner Party)  
[http://www.americansouthwest.net/california/donner\\_memorial/state\\_park.html](http://www.americansouthwest.net/california/donner_memorial/state_park.html)
- ✓ Malakoff Diggings - Malakoff was California's most famous hydraulic gold mine. Miners used high-pressure streams of water to wash away hillsides in their quest for gold. Hydraulic mining was halted in 1884 because of its environmental consequences but its colorful history lives on at Malakoff.  
[http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page\\_id=494](http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=494)