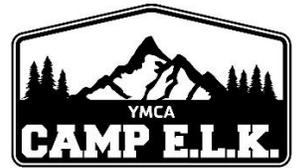




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## YMCA Camp E.L.K. Frequently Asked Questions

### **Where is Camp ELK located and how big is it?**

YMCA Camp ELK is located about 9 miles outside of Wrightwood, CA in the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument in the Angeles National Forest. The Camp is situated on nearly 10 acres of beautiful forest land at an elevation of 5700' completely surrounded by National Forest. It is about a 1½ hour drive from LA and Orange County and easily accessible year-round.

### **How many campers are in a cabin and where do they live/sleep?**

Cabin groups are made up of approximately 10 campers (youth) and 2 adult staff. Campers are grouped by gender and age and are usually within 2 years of age of each other. Campers bring their own sleeping bags, clothing and personal/hygiene items for their stay at camp. Our cabins are completely enclosed cabins with fully functioning windows and latching doors. Each of our cabins have heaters and fans depending on the weather conditions.

### **Can my child request to be with their friend in a cabin?**

Yes! When you complete the registration paperwork, there is a place for you to make a cabin friend request. This request must be completed on each camper's registration form. If your child is coming with a friend, be sure each family requests to be in the same cabin. Some restrictions do apply. Campers must be no more than 2 years apart of age and the same gender.

### **Where do campers come from that attend Camp ELK?**

We have campers attend camp from all over Southern California and beyond, but our primary service area includes Orange County, Los Angeles County, Riverside County and San Bernardino County including the High Desert.

### **Who is your staff and what types of background checks and training do they have?**

All camp staff are at least 18 and are screened and interviewed very thoroughly. We select staff based on specific skills, enthusiasm for working with youth and their ability to serve as great role models. Once selected and prior to hiring, all staff are subject to a thorough background screening which includes a LiveScan background check through the FBI and CA DOJ. In addition to the background checks, all staff have reference checks and a drug screening completed prior to being hired. Annually, prior to our summer season, all staff complete a mandatory, week long training and orientation that prepares them for every aspect of our operations.

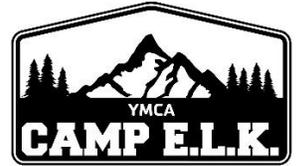
### **What are your staff to camper ratios?**

At Camp ELK we have 2 camp counselors assigned to each cabin group of approximately 10 campers. Counselors live in the cabin with the campers. Counselors are always with the campers and campers are never left unsupervised.

In addition to the camp counselors, we also have many other staff on site 24 hours a day including specialized activity leaders, health center personnel, administrative staff like the Camp Director and camp coordinators, facility maintenance staff and food service staff. All in all, for each camp session of approximately 80 campers, we have roughly 30-40 staff on site at all times.



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## YMCA Camp E.L.K. Frequently Asked Questions (Continued)

### **What kind of food do you serve?**

Camp ELK provides nutritious and delicious food selections and snacks. We serve our meal in a modified cafeteria style. We have a salad bar for lunch and dinner and a cereal and fruit bar for breakfast. There is always plenty of food for everyone to get enough to eat. We can accommodate most dietary restrictions and food allergies within reason. If you have specific questions or concerns, please contact the camp office and we will be happy to answer your questions and provide you with information to help you make the best decision for your child.

### **What activities will my child do?**

Camp ELK offers a wide variety of traditional camp activities, events and games. Campers may participate in activities that include archery, rock wall climbing, hiking, GaGa Ball, 9 Square-in-the-air, swimming, arts & crafts, drama/improv, outdoor cooking, basketball, volleyball, stargazing and others. We have evening twilight activities that are organized group games and events. We may have a camp dance, movie nights or other activities depending on the circumstances and weather. There are other special theme events like pajama breakfast and dress your counselor lunch to name just a couple. And of course, there are good, old-fashioned campfires where we sing songs and have funny skits.

### **Are you prepared for emergencies?**

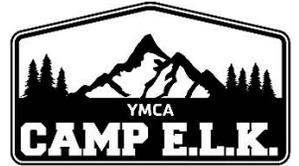
Camp ELK has developed Emergency Action Plans and worked with local emergency officials to plan for just about every conceivable emergency. The staff are trained and rehearsed on Emergency Action Plan procedures. All staff have trainings and certifications in CPR, First Aid and AED. Lifeguards are trained and certified by nationally recognized agencies like the American Red Cross or YMCA. Some of our staff are also trained in advanced Wilderness First Aid and we have Health Center Staff which live on site when campers are present who hold specialized certifications like EMT or higher certifications. In the event there is a medical emergency requiring transportation for additional treatment we will rely on EMS or Camp vehicles for transportation depending on the situation. Of course, parents/guardians will be notified of any serious medical emergencies.

### **My child takes medication. Who will be in charge of dispensing medications and where are the medications stored?**

As previously mentioned, Camp ELK has a Health Center that is staffed 24 hours a day by competently trained and specialized staff who dispense all medications and provide all first aid. All medications must be sent to camp in the original packaging/containers. No unlabeled medications outside of the original packaging will be accepted or given to campers. Do not send medications in Ziploc bags or other types of packaging. Medications will be collected upon check in and stored in our health center under lock and key. The camp also has over the counter medications that can be given to campers if needed and with the permission of the parent/guardian. If you have a specific question or concern, please contact the camp office.



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### **Parent Handbook**

We also have prepared a Parent Handbook which is available on our website. This handbook has tons of great information about our Camp and program. **It is highly suggested reading before you send your child to camp.** Sharing the information with your camper will help answer many questions and can only help ensure a successful week of camp for your child.

### **Do you allow campers to bring cell phones and other electronic devices to Camp?**

No. We have a very strict no electronics policy. We do not allow, cell phones, smart phones, smart watches, laptops, tablets, speakers, hand held games or any other forms of electronics. Camp is a place to “unplug” from these types of distractions. We also feel that calls from or to home often result in more incidents of homesickness. Please talk with your child before coming to camp so that everyone is aware of this policy and all the positive aspects of unplugging from technology for a few short days.