

**Camp de Benneville Pines
Angelus Oaks, CA**



Elementary/Family Camp Winter 2020

Camper Information Packet

Part 1

Saturday, February 15 — Monday, February 17, 2020

Time Travelers

We are all travelers in time, remembering the past and looking forward to the future. As we move through camp, we can see the stumps of trees that sprouted long ago, and pine cones that may become trees that live long into the future. We want to explore this idea – that we can learn from our past, make choices and take actions in the present, and by doing this, change the future.

We are so excited to share this time with you at camp. Our staff is preparing workshops to help you explore your place in time and your connections to the world. We will have lots of outdoor activities, as well as crafts and games and hot cocoa by the fire. We hope that you, like so many campers before you, will take home experiences you'll remember for a lifetime.



Arrival and Check-in

Enclosed is information on how to get to camp and what to bring along. Even if you're a seasoned winter driver, please read the information on travel to camp at this time of year. The included permission and health forms must be completed before check-in. And your balance must be paid before you arrive, as camp staff does not have the ability to process any payments on the spot.

Registration starts at 12:30 PM sharp. Be sure to arrive promptly; our weekend together already goes so quickly, and we don't want you to miss anything! Once registration closes at 2 PM, camp will begin right away. Our first meal together is dinner, so please have lunch on your way to camp. We have included a general overview of a day at camp in this packet to give you an idea of how this camp works. We'll provide a more detailed schedule at check-in.

Packing Particulars

Not knowing what the weather may bring, it is best to be prepared with warm bedding and clothing, including waterproof boots, hats, and mittens or gloves (see attached list). Staying dry is the way to stay warm: wool and synthetics dry more quickly than cotton, and waterproof outerwear is crucial for snow play. For you frequent campers, remember when packing that the wash house will be closed for the winter due to the potential for frozen pipes. Children may not be allowed to participate in outdoor activities without proper attire, so please pack extras, particularly socks. We suggest a minimum of six pairs, as wet feet put a wet blanket on snow play.

If the sled run is open, helmets are required for sledding: *no exceptions*. Please send your child with a bike helmet. Likewise, if your family has a favorite sled, consider bringing it up. Camp does have a few, but more are...well, more!

To avoid contributing to camp's Lost and Found box, please label all items with your name. You might also bring outgrown gear to share. For many of us, outfitting everyone for one weekend a year is a challenge. Your "something extra" may be just what a cold, wet child needs after an afternoon on the sled run.

Other items to bring include a nightlight for your cabin, and lip balm, lotion and sunscreen to protect skin from the cold and glare. Also, **don't forget chains for your car**. These are a must: the state of California requires that all travelers on our mountain carry them in winter.

Special Diets

Our de Benneville kitchen staff works hard to provide a hearty menu that appeals to most children and keeps them energized through their hours of active play at camp. The kitchen also provides a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables for wholesome eaters. If someone in your family is vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, or has a serious food allergy, and you did not indicate this on your registration, please send a note to registrar@uucamp.org so the kitchen can make enough special foods for everyone who needs them.

You also may bring (or send with your child) any special foods you may need. There are no grocery stores in the wilderness, which can make handling “food emergencies” difficult. Families have had success bringing a small cooler labeled with their name to keep in the lodge; a microwave is available. Because of animals, no food is allowed in cabins or in automobiles.

Like all camps which involve youth at camp without their parents, Elementary/Family Winter Camp is smoke- and alcohol-free. This district policy keeps our youth safe, so please leave these items at home. Thank you!

Variety Hour

Sunday night’s Camper Variety Hour offers you a safe, inclusive opportunity to share your songs, skits, jokes, dance moves, silly human tricks, etc. We encourage all adults and children alike to take part. As you pack, think about what you’d like to share. Maybe your whole family can perform together? Perhaps you can recruit your cabin-mates for a silly skit? Bring your instruments, props and costume items, and be ready to sign up at camp. We look forward to cheering you on!

Camp Structure

Why is there that slash in Elementary/Family Winter Camp? It’s really two camps taking place at once. The “elementary” portion has young campers in cabins with trained counseling staff, and the “family” portion has other young campers in cabins with their parents. Our staff works hard to engage new and seasoned campers alike with outdoor activities, indoor games, meaningful worship and feel-good music. But none of it would be possible without YOU.

At camp, parents play an active role. Parent participation creates the cooperative feel that makes this experience so special. Adults at camp support the community by signing up for one workshop per day as a helper. Some options include the sled run, outdoor play, indoor activities like theater games, and lodge time. Please think about how you would like to participate and be ready to sign up when you arrive. You will find this a great way to get to know other campers and a meaningful contribution to others’ experiences. Marianne Swift-Gifford, our Parent Coordinator, will be contacting you soon (if she hasn’t already) to help get things started. By working together, we foster independence for our young people, nurture lifelong UU campers, and make our time together enjoyable for all.

Camp is the most fun when it’s sold out, and we are nearly there! However, we do still have room for a few boys and girls in the independent cabins. If you know of any families whose children would enjoy an amazing weekend in the mountains, please invite them to visit uucamp.org. Any camper on the waitlist will get into camp if we have beds open. If you have any questions in the meantime, e-mail us at ctstechs.bill@gmail.com/ctstechs.shannon@gmail.com or the camp liaison at registrar@uucamp.org.

Our family, like so many others, has a special place in our hearts for de Benneville Pines. Returning there feels like going home. We are so glad you are joining us; we are so fortunate to be together.

In community,

Bill and Shannon Stoker

Co-deans, Elementary/Family Winter Camp 2020



2020 Elementary/Family Winter Camp

Important Camper Information

★ -up

Check-in will be held 12:30 pm—2:00 pm on Saturday, February 15, 2020. Please make sure your balance is paid in full before you arrive as camp staff does not have the ability to process any payments on the spot.

Please pick-up your camper between 11:00 am and 12:00 pm on Monday, February 17, 2020. The last meal served will be breakfast, so pack a snack or sack lunch for your hungry child. There will be no supervision provided after 12:30 pm on the day of departure. Attending the camp closing is an important part of the camp experience. Please do not pull your camper out of the closing. Coaches and restrooms are available at the lodge if you arrive before camper pick-up time.

★ **FORMS:** Be sure to have all the forms completed for your elementary camper, as well as attending family members. To insure a speedy registration process, please be sure to print and complete the following forms as they apply:

Youth Code of Conduct is required of ALL youth campers 18 and under attending this camp

Release and Emergency Information Forms: Please complete all of the appropriate forms as described below:

- 1) If you are a parent/guardian attending and sharing a cabin with youth campers, use **Release and Emergency Information Form for Families attending Camp de Benneville Pines**
- 2) **Release and Emergency Information Form for Youth attending Camp de Benneville Pines**
- 3) **Release and Emergency Information Form for Adults attending Camp de Benneville Pines**

★ Camping Ministries Staff

Our Camp is staffed by UU adult and youth volunteers. All staff are required to follow camp guidelines and behavior policies and will be held to the same accountability as all campers and site staff. Youth staff are required to fill out all camper forms, no exceptions. Adult staff are required to complete the Release and Emergency Information Form for Adults attending Camp de Benneville Pines, and will complete and sign the Code of Ethics and Rules and Behavior forms at Camp Training.

★ Telephone & Electronic Devices

Time to UNPLUG! Electronic devices close campers to enjoying new opportunities and for this reason **we strongly encourage campers to leave cell phones and other digital technology at home.** However, we understand that some families may need a line of communications; so sending a cell phone with a camper is a family decision. Please be aware that cell phone service on the mountain is spotty and may be unreliable, there is no available internet connection, and that **no cell phones or devices will be allowed during camp activities — they must be left in the cabins and used for family communication only.** Digital gaming, texting friends or other uses of “screen time” take campers away from the camp community and we are so looking forward to having your child’s presence and participation! If you have an emergency or need to contact your camper urgently, please call the camp office at (909) 794-2928 and leave a message, or call the Camp Director, Janet James, at (909) 435-6298.

✳️ Arranging Transportation

If your camper needs a ride to camp or you connect with another camper a ride, please send a message explaining the need to the campers at 252-2928. They will be happy to send your request and contact information out via an email message to other campers attending this event. Please make arrangements as

✳️ Health & Safety

Enclosed are several forms. **These forms must be filled out completely.** No camper may check-in without have ALL forms completed and signed by a parent or guardian. Please fill out the appropriate Release and Emergency Form. Three (3) choices are included in this packet. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Campers without completed forms will NOT be allowed to stay at camp.

✳️ Snow and Snow Chains

It is the responsibility of the driver to carry chains when driving in the mountains during the winter months. It is also the responsibility of the driver to know how to install the chains to insure safe travel into and out of camp. Please read the enclosed information about winter travel to camp and come prepared.

✳️ De Benneville Pines Camp Policy

We are dedicated to providing a safe and fun community for youth, families and staff. Disruptive items and behavior threaten the peace and safety of the community. We, therefore, have rules that we ask all campers and staff to adhere to. Campers and staff are expected to abide by these rules or they will be sent home. Please review with your camper(s) the Youth Winter Camp Behavior Policies and the Camp de Benneville Pines Rules included in this packet, then have your camper(s) sign the Youth Code of Conduct Agreement. Parents need to sign the included Parent Accountability Statement. The guidelines and rules will be reviewed on the first day of camp.

✳️ Registration Refund Policy

Should your camper need to cancel prior to arrival for any reason, the \$75 deposit is non-refundable. If your camper needs to leave camp early for any reason, the full camp fee is non-refundable. No refunds will be made after the beginning of camp.

✳️ Theft and Missing Articles Policy

Neither the camp, nor its employees will be financially responsible for any lost or stolen clothing, articles or money. Please send only used or worn equipment to camp. We encourage campers to leave valuable items and new clothing at home. Should your camper have a tendency to misplace things, please mark their name on all items. Any Lost & Found articles are held at camp for four (4) weeks and will be shipped at the owner's expense. All unclaimed Lost & Found items will be donated to local needy families.

cmd@uucamp.org or (623) 252-5619.

2020 Elementary/Family Winter Camp A Day at Camp

Lodge Time (Opt.)	Good morning! Early-rising campers can come down before breakfast to be with other campers. Counselors bring independent campers from their cabins; kids in family cabins who wish to come down must be supervised by an adult.
Breakfast	Cabins take turns setting tables for each communal meal in the lodge, with each cabin responsible for one meal. Check the schedule to see which cabin is assigned, and come 15 minutes early to do your part. You'll put things out on the tables, remove them and wipe down the tables afterward, and stay a few minutes after to clean up. Everyone sits at tables until they're called up to the line. Enjoy a visit with your tablemates while waiting.
Workshop Sign-ups	Campers sign up for that day's workshops (3 slots on Sunday). Parents sign up to help for at least one workshop each day. For camper safety, we ask that everyone attends the workshops for which they signed up, and notifies a program or counseling staff member if a change must be made.
Morning Workshops	Two back-to-back workshop slots with time in between to transition. These slots may include outdoor play, indoor games, etc. Workshops and activities may change due to weather and other variables.
Lunch	This works just like breakfast, except we are all extra hungry from a morning of fun! As before, campers set tables by cabin. Don't forget to check the schedule and come early if it's your turn to set up. The de Benneville camp store in the lodge is open at this time for parents only .
Cabin Time/Meetings	Get warm and dry after a morning outside, learn important information from staff, and get to know the others in your cabin better.
Afternoon Workshop	More community fun!
Snack	Take a short break in the lodge to warm up, recharge and refuel.
Community Worship	This meaningful time together for the whole community is tailor-made for adults and kids alike to enjoy.
Cabin Time	Here's another chance to make sure campers are staying warm and dry. This is also a good time for campers to get items they'll need for that night's activities.
Dinner	Enjoy another delicious meal you didn't have to cook. Yum! Is it your turn to set tables? Don't forget to check the schedule.
Clean-up / Set-up	We all work as a community to get the lodge ready for the evening's activities. Evening Activities Saturday features icebreakers and games; Sunday we enjoy our camper variety hour.
Closing Circle	We close our day together with story and song, then transition to our cabins for a good night's sleep. See you in the morning!





Winter Camp Packing List

What to Bring

- Warm, waterproof jacket(s)
- Mittens (several pairs)
- Knit cap(s)
- Scarf
- Snow pants
- Long pants
- Long-sleeved shirts
- Sweatpants
- Sweatshirts
- Warm PJ's
- Underwear and at least 6 pairs of warm socks (wool or acrylic)
- Two (2) pairs waterproof shoes/boots
- Sleeping bag
- Pillow
- Blankets
- Two (2) towels
- Dirty clothes bag
- Prescription meds in original med bottle
- Soap, shampoo, comb & hairbrush
- Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Lotion, sunscreen, lip balm
- Favorite music, musical instruments
- Funny hats & costumes
- Games, books and other resources for Cabin Time
- Nightlight for cabin
- Camera and fresh batteries
- Flashlight and fresh batteries
- Snow sleds
- **Bike helmet with camper's name on it**
- **CHAINS!** These are a must: The State of California requires that all cars carry chains for winter travels through our area mountains.

YOUTH CAMPS ARE ALCOHOL FREE ZONES. PLEASE DO NOT BRING ANY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES TO ELEMENTARY FAMILY CAMP. THIS IS A CAMP POLICY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

If you need to reach camp, here are some handy numbers:

Janet James, Camp Director, cell phone (909) 435-6298

Camp Office (909) 794-2928 Camp Lodge (909) 794-8712

Camp email: uucamp@aol.com

Camp website: www.uucamp.org

Directions on website: <http://www.uucamp.org/about-2/directions-to-camp/>

2020 Elementary/Family Winter Camp

Camp de Benneville Pines Rules & Policies

These rules and policies are for the benefit of all campers and staff while on the Camp de Benneville grounds. Please adhere to these rules and policies as they are for everyone's safety and well-being.

1. All persons using the Camp facilities must comply with all federal, state and local laws.
2. If keeping an automobile on Camp property while at Camp, after unloading at your cabin, park your car in the main lot with the back end of your car pointing into the woods. This helps expedite leaving camp quickly in the event of an emergency. Keep your car keys on you at all times. Be sure to bring a spare key and keep in your luggage.
3. In the event of an emergency situation, an alarm will sound. Evacuate your cabin immediately and gather in the area behind the lodge kitchen (volleyball court). Gather with your fellow cabin mates and await instructions from the Camp Dean or Camp Manager.
4. No weapons or guns may be brought onto Camp premises.
5. Camp dogs are never to leave Camp premises without permission of the Camp Manager.
6. No explosives, flammable liquids, fireworks or poisonous substances may be brought to Camp.
7. Keep any recorded or amplified music played in the Lodge turned down for background music only, unless it is being used for a workshop or talent show presentation.
8. All crafts using spray paint, glitter, wax or plaster must be done outside. These types of projects are not allowed inside Camp buildings.
9. **DO NOT BRING YOUR PET TO CAMP.** The only exception we make is for certified and trained assistance animals (such as a Seeing Eye Dog). Contact the camp's registrar at registrar@uucamp.org in advance of arrival to make arrangements to bring an assistance animal to Camp.
10. We DO ASSESS damage charges for graffiti, excessive wear and tear, chewing gum and other adhesives found in the carpet and furniture. We want to keep things in good order for the next group coming to Camp.
11. Please close all internal and external cabin doors to keep the heat in and the critters out!
12. Carry chains from October through May while traveling in the San Bernardino Mountains. See the Winter Travel to Camp instructions available on Camp's website www.uucamp.org.

Please keep the following phone numbers in your wallet or pocket while at Camp and TEXT or Call either number if you need assistance:

Camp Director Janet James's cell phone (909) 435-6298

Maintenance Supervisor Frank Haahr's cell phone (760) 600-6012

YOUTH WINTER CAMP BEHAVIOR POLICIES

1. By default, campers are housed in single-sex cabins.
2. Curfew is defined as the time after which all campers are to be in their own cabins.
Curfew for Elementary Youth Camp is 9:00 PM to 7:30 AM. During this time, there is to be quiet in the cabin areas and on all trails.
3. Campers may not leave the camp grounds at any time during camp without the permission and supervision of adult staff. No group smaller than four people may leave the premises for any reason.
4. The water tower, staff housing, interior kitchen, pool pump room, maintenance buildings, propane tanks, sewer plant/leach fields and any construction sites are off limits to all campers. Use of the First Aid Station must be overseen by a trained adult staff member.
5. No visitors are allowed during camp. This includes unannounced family members, former campers, and former staff members. Any visits must be pre-arranged and approved by the Dean and/or Camping Ministries Director. All pre-arranged visitors must check-in upon arrival and wear a VISITOR BADGE while in camp.
6. Attendance at workshops, worships and meals is expected.
7. Campers are asked to respect each other and the belongings and privacy of other campers and staff. The camp facilities and camp equipment should be used in the intended manner. NO PRANKS.
8. Dangerous or disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated; any camper engaging in such will be sent home. This includes the use of rude and abusive language.
9. Closed toed shoes must be worn when a camper is outdoors.
10. No tree climbing or rock throwing.
11. No Youth Camper may use the hot tub at any time, under any circumstances.
12. No one is allowed in the kitchen without a valid food handler's card.
13. No drugs, alcohol or weapons are allowed at camp. All prescription and over-the-counter medications must be turned in to our Camp Nurse during camp check-in. The use of all medications is to be monitored by the camp health professional and adult staff. Medications must be in their original packaging.
14. All campers must sign the Youth Code of Conduct Agreement (INCLUDED IN CAMPER PACKET)
15. All parents must sign the Parent Accountability Statement (also INCLUDED IN CAMPER PACKET)
16. Youth Camps are SMOKE FREE. Campers and staff may not smoke at camp. This includes vape pens and e-cigarettes.
17. No hair dye or permanent inks or hennas allowed inside cabin bedrooms, bathrooms or kitchens. Use only at the arts/crafts area.

Any camper unable to abide by these policies will be asked to leave camp immediately, without benefit of any refund, and may be restricted from participating in future youth events.

Guidelines for Parents at Elementary/Family Winter Camp

1. Parents and their children are expected to follow the Behavior Policies for Camp de Benneville Pines with the following modifications and additions.
2. Parents attending camp with children in 2nd grade or lower must remain with their child throughout the day, unless they make arrangements with another parent to take turns accompanying each other's children to activities. Parents of children in 3rd grade or higher will be asked to assist at one workshop on Saturday and two workshops on Sunday. Camp has a particular need for people who enjoy being outside and supervising safe snow play.
3. Children 3rd grade and higher (and 2nd graders in counselor cabins) are expected to adhere to all camp policies whether their parents are present or not. This includes attending all meals, workshops and worship, and following all camp rules. Children in 1st grade and lower (and 2nd graders staying with their parents) are the primary responsibility of their parents. These children can miss the above events as long as they are with a parent or guardian, but still must follow all camp rules.
4. Children must never be alone at camp. They are to be in groups of at least three when on the trails. They are not to be in cabins without an adult.
5. Counselors are trained staff members responsible for running camp. If you have an issue with a counselor, please raise it with that person as a peer. If the issue is not resolved to your satisfaction, bring it to the attention of the Family Cabin Counselor or Parent Coordinator.
6. We strongly encourage remaining on camp grounds throughout the duration of camp. If there is a reason you want to leave camp, you must sign out with the Family Cabin Counselor or Parent Coordinator.
7. Each cabin is responsible for keeping its own porch swept of snow and for setting up for one meal during the weekend as indicated on the schedule.
8. Vehicles must be parked in the lower lot, facing out. Drivers must keep their keys on their person in case of emergency evacuation.
9. Due to fire restrictions, there is no smoking at camp and no burning of incense or candles in any building.
10. Everyone must participate in the fire drill.
11. Technology: Let's leave it in the room! Family camp is a time to play with our kids, enjoy quality family time, and connect with other families. Please leave cell phones, laptops, DVD players, etc., tucked away in your suitcase.
12. Parents must attend cabin meetings and are encouraged to adhere to cabin times with their children. The sled run is closed during cabin time.
13. Due to state regulations, all prescription and over-the-counter medicines must be turned in to the nurse in their original containers.
14. No consumption of alcoholic beverages is permitted at any youth camp. Any alcoholic beverages must be turned into Camp de Benneville management to be secured safely and returned at the end of camp.

I have read, and agree to abide by, the Parent Guidelines.

Name

Signature

Date