



Summer 2019 Parent Information



Description: The Chico Creek Nature Center presents a nature camp for children ages 5-12. The program is designed to provide outdoor recreation and to foster awareness of nature in a fun, safe, and caring setting. Campers enjoy hands-on natural science labs, up-close animal visits, outdoor games, nature activities and crafts, and more in Bidwell Park.

Date: Camp Chico Creek: Monday, Friday June 7th to Wednesday, August 14th, 2019

Location: Chico Creek Nature Center - 1968 E. 8th Street, Chico, Ca 95928, (530) 891-4671 ex. 27

Contact: Camp Phone: 530-891-4671 ex. 27 - Camp Email: camp@bidwellpark.org

Times: Full day from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Half day from 9:00 am - 1 pm

Extended care at no additional cost 7:30 am - 5:30 pm

Hydration: Hydration starts at home! Please ensure your camper drinks enough water at home. Once dehydrated, it may be difficult to replenish a child's body with enough water. Campers should bring water bottles and are prompted to refill and drink often. Counselors also carry water to give campers throughout the day.

Our Staff: We pride ourselves on hiring the best of the best. Counselors go through an intensive screening and training process.

Health Policy: Families will be notified if their child complains of being significantly ill, has a head injury or otherwise needs parental care. We may be nut-free if there is a child in camp with a severe allergy. Please reference the email you get before camp for details about our nut policy for the week. We have a no lice/nit policy.

Blue Slips: For non-serious injuries or illnesses such as a scratch or tummy ache.

Purple Slips: A friendly reminder to please leave all your nut products at home when camp is nut-free.

Evacuation: Step 1 is to take campers to Bear's Lair (where we do opening circle), Step 2 is to walk them across 8th Street to the residential area and Step 3 is to follow the directions given to us by 9-1-1 and the Red Cross. We will make every effort to connect families.

Items from Home: Campers may bring items such as stuffed animals and Pokémon cards **at their own risk!** We do not take any responsibility for lost toys that were brought from home.

Lost and Found: We retain all items for a period of **one week**. We are **not responsible** for any missing, lost or stolen items. We recommend keeping toys at home. Please make sure you check your child's belongings before you leave camp.

Special Needs: Please note anything we should be aware of in the emergency form that you bring with you to camp on the first day your child attends. Camp has a 1:12 ratio and we do not deviate from that format unless a child has a one on one aide. If an aide will be attending camp with your child please give us as much notice as possible so that we can make the appropriate arrangements.

Sign In/Out: For the safety of your children, we require that you sign them in and out. Please be prepared to show a photo ID at pick up. Only named parents/guardians and authorized pick-ups on the emergency contact form will be allowed to pick up campers.

Emergency Contact Form: This form is filled out on the first day of camp at sign in and provides us with important information about your child and who may pick them up. Any changes to the emergency contact form must be made in person or in writing - can be emailed to camp@bidwellpark.org or faxed to CARD at (530)895-4721.

Late Pick-Up: Please pick up at your scheduled time. A **late fee** of \$1.00 per minute is charged after the pick-up time. If your child is not picked up within 1 hour from the pick-up time and no contact has been made with persons on the emergency form, Child Protective Services will be called.

Orange Slip: A reminder to pick your child up on time, that will list the penalties for late pickups.

Registration and Refunds: **We are no longer able to offer same day registration at camp.** This means that if you would like to register your child for our camps you must do so either online or at the CARD or Nature Center front desk before registration closes the Thursday before a week of camp. Requests for refunds and transfers must be received by **10:00 am on the Thursday prior to the camp start date.** Unfortunately, we are unable to make any exceptions unless valid emergency or medical documentation can be provided for a week or more of camp that is missed.

Camper Rules:

- **HAVE FUN**
- Be safe: listen to activity rules, stay with group and leader - if you need something (bathroom, water, snack) ask a leader first!
- Be respectful: in actions, in language, in listening
- Be kind - no violent games or rough play are allowed
- Do not pick up sticks unless building forts, do not pick up or throw rocks ever
- Keep your feet on the ground except when climbing in Ewok Village or on our climbing wall
- Do not share food, except with siblings
- Pick up all personal trash and report trash that isn't from camp to counselors
- Let nature be - let living things grow, be kind to Bidwell Park.
- Keep your shoes on - Closed-toe shoes are required for camp

Camp Philosophy for Encouraging Good Behavior:

- **Always set clear expectations:** tell children exactly what you want them to do
- **Be consistent:** do what you say you will do and be fair
- **Keep children busy and make sure they are having fun**
- **When you see positive behavior, give the camper positive feedback**
- **Keep your eyes on the children**

- **Model positive behavior.**
- **Communicate with your colleagues about challenges and successes**
- **Keep in mind:**
 - The purpose of discipline is to help children change their behavior
 - Different children come to camp with different skills for dealing with life
 - Children may have deeper challenges that you are unaware of - please be patient
 - If children come to you with a “problem” it might not be a big deal to you, but it is to them. Take the time to help them deal with it

Discipline Procedure: Our procedures allow us to communicate with you, the parent, so that we may work together to resolve any inappropriate camp behavior. The way we do so is as follows:

Yellow Slips: Campers will be sent home with a yellow slip if they continuously break camp rules. These yellow slips will act as a warning.

Red Slip: After three yellow slips are issued to a camper, **or when a camper exhibits dangerous behavior** they will receive a Red Slip. These serve as a more severe warning.

Behavior Contract : After three red slips are issued to a camper, **or when a camper exhibits extremely dangerous behavior** a parent meeting will be requested and a behavior contract will be drawn up. . The behavior contract is our last-resort disciplinary action, and will be handled by our Coordinator or Center Director . Campers who are given a behavior contract and continue to exhibit the same inappropriate or dangerous behavior **will be asked to leave camp.**

What to Bring/Wear: To ensure a GREAT experience, campers should bring or wear:

Lots of food	A large lunch and several big snacks make for a happy camper.
Closed-toe shoes	No sandals, flip flops, etc.
Layered clothing	The temperature can change a lot throughout the day.
Sunscreen	Please send your child with sunscreen and apply sunscreen before they arrive at camp. Counselors will remind them to re-apply as needed throughout the day. Counselors are not to apply sunscreen on campers.
Bug repellent	Counselors will remind them to apply if needed.
Water bottle	Hydration starts at home!
Swimwear and Second Pair of Closed Toed Shoes	Please be sure your camper is ready for time in the creek. We swim every day!
Extra outfit as needed	We recommend items come in a backpack for safe keeping. Campers will have use of cubbies to store their items. Please label all items brought to camp.