



# YOSEMITE SIERRA SUMMER CAMP

# FAMILY HANDBOOK

We are so excited to welcome your camper to YSSC — Home of the World's Greatest Campers — this summer! Our Family Handbook is designed to help you and your camper prepare for their session. Let's get started!



# YOUR PARENT CHECKLIST

Forms are due one month prior to your session beginning. Please log in to your YSSC.com account and go to "Forms & Documents." You will need to complete the following forms:

- Camper Application
- Camper Photo
- Health History
- YSSC 2018 Physician's Form (Physical completed within 12 months of start of session)
- YSSC Cabin Mate Request
- YSSC Code of Conduct
- YSSC No Care Package Policy
- YSSC Personality Profile
- YSSC Settle Up
- YSSC Technology Policy
- YSSC Transportation

## Your Packing List

- Review your packing list on Page 4
- Helpful tip: You may want to purchase labels for your camper's clothing and belongings or simply write name on tags with Sharpie

## Medications

- List medications on camper's Health History Form
- Hand medications to nurse in original containers

# STAYING IN TOUCH

## YSSC CONTACT INFORMATION

We strongly recommend opting-in for YSSC text notifications. You will receive helpful texts, including when your camper has arrived safely at camp and updates on camper return. To receive YSSC news (bus arrivals, emergency info, etc.) via text, "opt in" by texting:

yosemiteierra.2018session1parent to 292929

yosemiteierra.2018session2parent to 292929

yosemiteierra.2018session3parent to 292929

yosemiteierra.2018session4parent to 292929

**Note:** This must be done each year.

### Office Contact:

Our office is open 7 days a week!

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Phone: 800-775-9772

Email: [info@yssc.com](mailto:info@yssc.com)

Fax: 949-369-9819

Due to the nature of our daily schedule and activities, we may not be able to answer calls immediately. During office hours, we will return your call as soon as we can. And, after-hours, we will return all emergency calls as soon as we can, and non-emergency calls the next morning.

## STAYING IN TOUCH WITH YOUR CAMPER

While we have a strict no care package policy in place, campers love receiving mail, cards from home and postcards.

### By mail:

Camper Name

YSSC

PO Box 449

Bass Lake, CA 93604

### One-way email to Campers:

Use your Parent Login to purchase "Camp Stamps" to send one-way emails to your child. Emails received by 11 a.m. will be delivered to your camper that day.

# WHAT TO BRING TO YSSC

We encourage campers to help choose, label and pack their clothing and belongings they will take to camp. They will have more confidence as they unpack in their cabin and will be less likely to lose items because they have a better idea of what they brought to camp with them.

Laundry is done mid-session – we strongly recommend only packing enough clothing for one week. Camp is not a place for high fashion or expensive clothing. We play hard and get dirty. Send old clothing that does not require special care, and please leave valuables at home.

Clothing List	Personal Items	Optional Items
8 short sleeved shirts	Warm, light-weight sleeping bag (appropriate for 40 degree weather)	Disposable / digital cameras (cell phones may not be used)
3 long-sleeved shirts	Pillow	Reading book(s) / reading tablets with no Internet access
2 sweatshirts	2 bath towels	Stationary stamps (pre-address envelope if desired)
1 jacket / fleece	Beach towel	Skateboard / helmet
3 pair long pants / jeans / sweats	Laundry bag or pillowcase	Musical instrument
5 pair shorts	Toiletry items	Fitted twin sheet for bun bed mattress
1 or 2 casual dress outfits for chapel and closing banquet	Insect repellent	A costume items or cabin decoration related to this summer's theme
2 modest bathing suits (one-piece suits required for girls)	Sunscreen	1 pair hiking shoes / boots (broken-in please - no new boots)*
2 pair pajamas	Bible	Fishing pole and supplies*
8 pair underwear	Small notebook / pen or pencil	*For campers entering 7th grade and above who will be going on 3-day backpack trip.
8 pair socks		
2 pair sturdy tennis / closed-toe shoes		
1 pair sandals / flip flops		

# CLOTHING TIPS

In order to maintain a safe and wholesome environment, we ask that you assist your camper in selecting appropriate attire:

- Weather at camp is typically in the mid-70s to the low 90s during the day. Night-time lows can be in the high 50s to low 60s.
- Campers 7th grade and older should plan for colder night-time temps on their 3-day backpack trips.
- Choose modest clothing that fits the body well. Avoid very short shorts, low-slung pants, skimpy tops, etc.
- One-piece bathing suits are required for girls.
- Clothing that depicts violent images, foul language, topics of tobacco, drugs, alcohol or gang affiliations are not allowed.
- Bring clothing that does not require special laundry care.

## What Not To Bring:

- Please no cell phones, iPods, iPads, laptops, electronic games or other techno items at camp or YSSC charter buses. Electronic readers with no Internet access are permitted.
- Please no provocative literature, glamour magazines or other distracting reading material.
- No tobacco, drugs, e-cigarettes, weapons or pets are allowed on camp property.
- Please no food, candy or gum.

Any “contraband” brought to camp will be held in safekeeping and returned to camper on Closing Day.

# CAMP NOTES

## **Our No-Tech Policy**

We ask campers to leave electronics at home, including cell phones, iPads, iPods, laptops, electronic games, or other tech items. Our policy extends to the Charter Buses to and from camp. The opportunity to unplug helps campers plug in to their new camp environment and concentrate on face-to-face interactions with peers and staff. Campers adjust quickly to tech-free days and often remark that they enjoy feeling free from the constant draw of texting, gaming and social media.

A note about cellphones: Allowing a camper to sneak his / her cell phone into camp has a number of negative consequences. It can lead to prolonged homesickness as a camper may continue to seek support from home rather than from their counselor and cabin mates. It creates conflict for a camper who must hide, deny or lie about his / her phone. Cell phones also allow for unkind or inappropriate text / photos to be send. We thank you in advance for honoring our policy.

## **Cabin Mate Requests**

Approximately 25 percent of YSSC's campers come to camp without a friend or relative. They quickly connect with new friends and form a family among their cabin mates. Many campers do, however, attend with a buddy. We will do our best to honor cabin mate requests for friends of the same gender and similar age / grade. Cabin mate requests must be mutual and are not guaranteed. Please be advised that because new friends are a significant part of the summer camp experience, we usually separate large groups of friends into two more cabins so new friends can be included in each group. The Cabin Mate Request Form – found under “Forms & Documents” in your Parent Login - must be submitted no later than one month prior to session start.

# CAMP NOTES

## Bringing Medications

Please ensure medications are listed on camper's Health History Form submitted online through your Parent log-in. Medications, including vitamins, must be brought to camp in original container with name and dosage clearly marked. We recommend putting all medications in a large, re-sealable bag, labeled with the camper's name, to be handed to the nurse upon arrival at camp.

## Medical Advisement

If your child requires medical care beyond simple first aid or must stay overnight in the infirmary, the camp nurse will call to advise you. This includes campers with a fever above 100 degrees, flu-like symptoms or recurring complaints such as headaches and stomach aches.

## Lost & Found

YSSC will not be held responsible for the loss or damage of personal articles. Campers are requested to not bring any items of special value to camp. We will make every effort to return lost items to campers before they head home on closing day.

## Concerns About Homesickness

It is not unusual for campers to feel slight to moderate homesickness during their first few days away from home. It usually disappears within the first 1-3 days of camp. Tackling homesickness is an essential skill for children to master, and we train staff to work through homesickness with their campers. In the rare case that homesickness lingers, we will be in touch with parents to help strategize together how to best help their child conquer these feelings and enjoy camp to the fullest.

# TRANSPORTATION

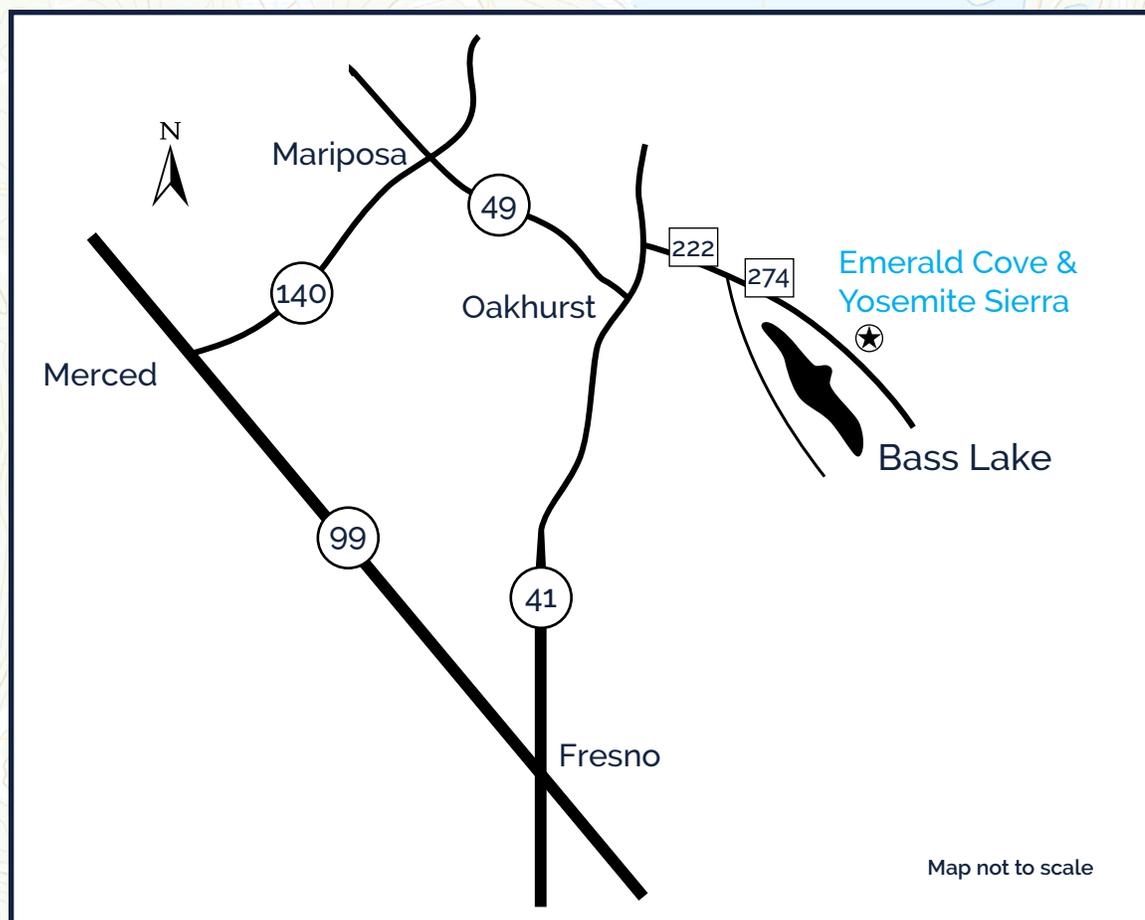
Campers can opt to drive by car, fly or take the Charter Bus. We believe that camp starts on the bus and is a good way to get your camper excited for the adventure ahead.

## Driving to/from Camp

We invite parents to drive their children to camp on the first day and/or pick up their child on the last day of the session. First day registration is open from 2:00-4:00 PM. During that time you can meet your child's counselor and take a tour of camp. Please do not arrive early as our staff will still be preparing for your arrival. Campers should be picked up between 8:30-10:00 AM on the last day of camp.

Our physical address for GPS systems is:

**39515 Road 274, Bass Lake, CA 93604**



# TRANSPORTATION

## Charter Buses

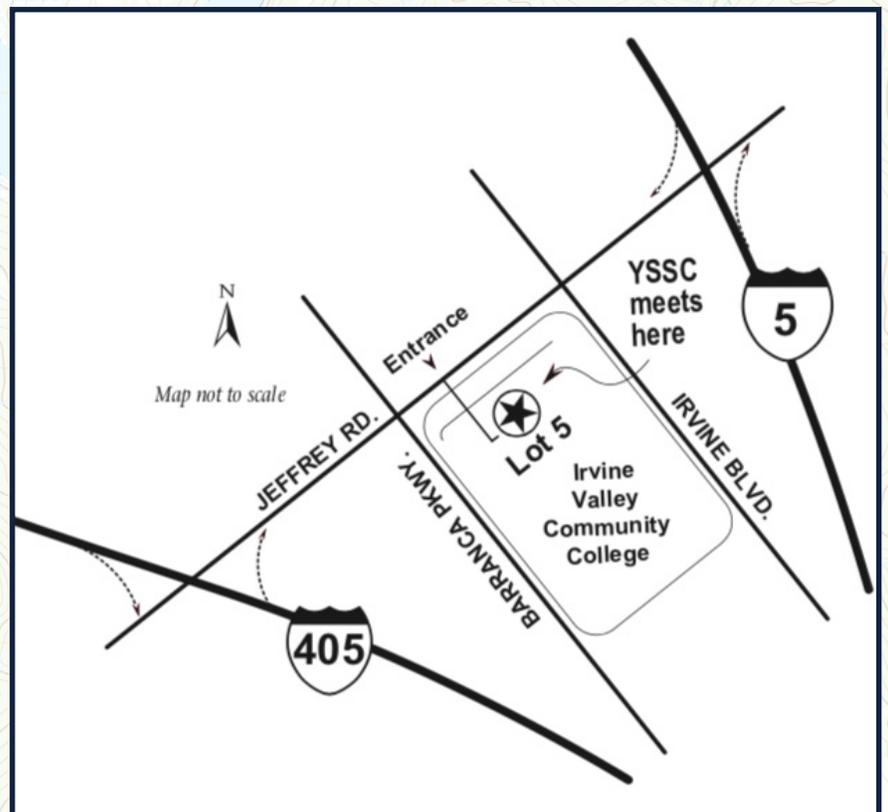
Charter Buses transport campers from Southern California under YSSC staff supervision. This is the most popular way for campers to get to and from camp. The fare for the charter bus is \$75 one way or \$150 round trip. Buses are comfortable with air-conditioning and bathroom. Seating is reserved on a first come, first served basis. ▲

**Note:** The Charter Bus ride is 6-7 hours depending on pick up location, including a stop for lunch. Campers should plan to bring lunch money for the ride TO Camp. On the bus ride from camp a lunch will be provided.

## Orange County Bus

The bus picks up and drops off campers at Irvine Valley Community College, Lot 5 off Jeffrey Road and Irvine Valley, Irvine, 92618

- Sunday Departure: Check-in 8:30 AM. Bus leaves promptly at 9:00 AM
- Friday Return: Approximately 3:00 PM. lunch will be provided.



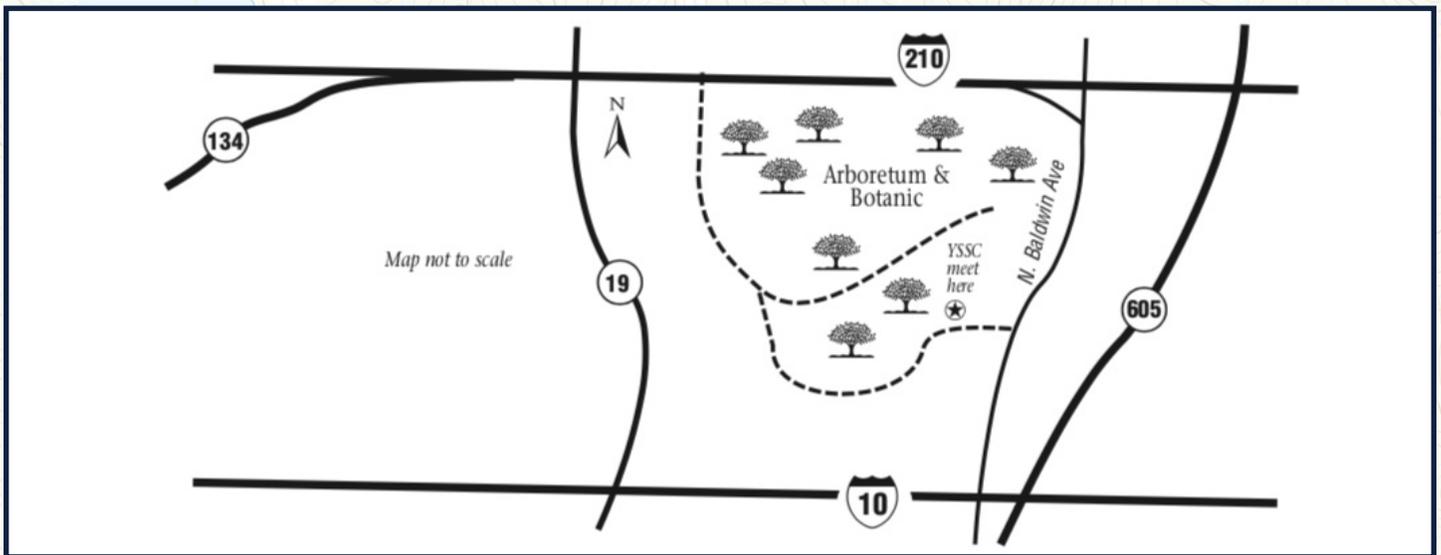
See next page for more buses →

# TRANSPORTATION

## Pasadena Bus

The bus picks up and drops off campers at the L.A. Arboretum, 301 North Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, CA 91007.

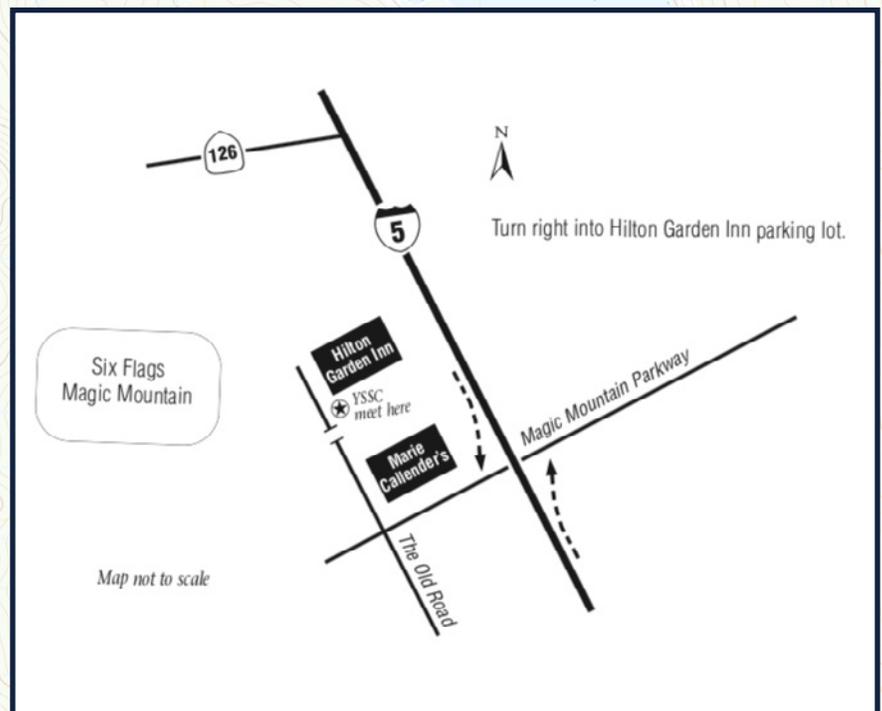
- Sunday Departure: Check-in 9:45 AM. Bus leaves promptly at 10:15 AM
- Friday Return: Approximately 1:30 PM



## Valencia Bus

The bus picks up and drops off campers at Hilton Garden Inn off Magic Mountain Parkway, 27710 The Old Road, Valencia, CA 91355.

- Sunday Departure: Check-in 10:00 AM. Bus leaves promptly at 10:30 AM
- Friday Return: Approximately 1:00 PM



# TRANSPORTATION

## Airline Travel

Many campers travel from outside California. Our campers fly into Fresno Yosemite International Airport (FAT), where a uniformed staff member will meet them when they arrive and collect their luggage for transportation to camp.

The airport shuttle to camp is approximately 1 hour. The fee for this shuttle service is \$20 one-way and \$40 round trip. Please plan your flight to arrive between 10 AM and 2 PM on the first day of the session, and to depart between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM on the last day of the session.

## Transportation Safety Guidelines

When transporting campers to/from camp, Yosemite Sierra Summer Camp observes the following guidelines:

- Campers in the care of YSSC staff members are never left unsupervised
- Role is taken after loading and prior to departing from any stop during the trip
- Campers are not allowed to switch between the buses/shuttles at any point during the duration of the trip
- Campers are only released to individuals who have been authorized by the campers' parents or guardians
- Staff or designated host family remains at the drop-off location until all campers have been picked up
- In case of transportation changes or emergencies, parents who have opt-ed into YSSC's texting system will be notified via text on their cell phones. Information will also be posted on the YSSC website home page under "Lastest News".