

GOLDEN STATE YMCA  
NOVEMBER 2025



# THE SEQUOIA SCROLL A YEAR IN REVIEW

Outdoor Adventure. Friendship. Memories that Last a Lifetime

# A Message From Our CEO

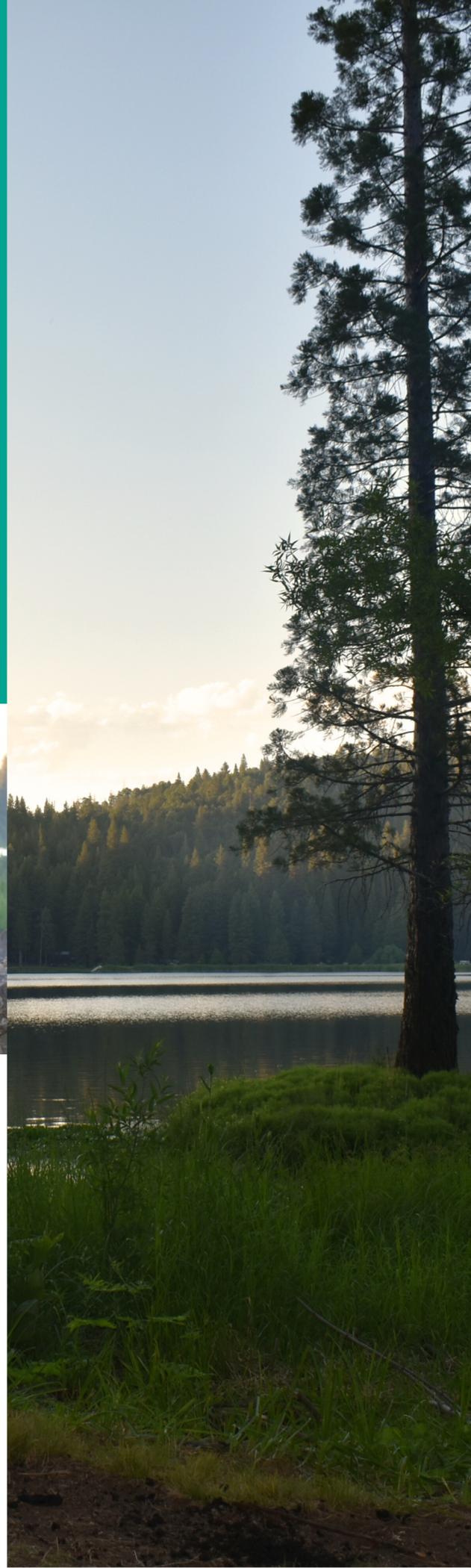
I am incredibly proud to present the YMCA Camp Sequoia Lake 2025 Impact Report, a comprehensive look at a year defined by growth, investment, and a renewed commitment to our mission.

This year highlights the transformative power of the camp experience on all we serve. From welcoming multi-generational groups during our Family Camp sessions, to the life-changing impact of our youth and teen camp, and the skate program that reaches far beyond the ramp to instill confidence and community. Our programs have fostered personal development, resilience, and belonging for hundreds of people. This report celebrates their stories and the lasting difference that moments at YMCA Camp Sequoia Lake can make.

This year also marked a significant milestone with crucial capital investments made to revitalize our campus and breathe life back into a once flourishing family camp facility. These improvements are not merely structural; they are an investment in the future, ensuring that the magic of Sequoia Lake can be shared by families and campers for generations to come. By enhancing our facilities, we are improving the foundation for expanded programming and upholding our standard as a premier destination.

Crucially, none of these achievements would be possible without the passion, dedication, and service of our staff and volunteers. They are the heart and soul of YMCA Camp Sequoia Lake, bringing our mission and values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility to life every single day. We extend our deepest gratitude to every counselor, program leader, support staff, board member, and volunteer. Your tireless efforts create the welcoming, supportive, and transformative environment that defines the YMCA Camp Sequoia Lake experience. Thank you for making 2025 our most impactful year yet.

**Simon Helyer**



## OUR BOARDMEMBERS

### **Phil Dixon**

GSY Board Chair  
Facilities Committee Chair  
Philanthropic Committee Member

### **David Hembree**

Philanthropic Committee Chair  
Personnel Committee Member  
Sequoia Lake Conference

### **Sean 'Mike' Ringer**

Personnel Committee Chair  
Board Development Committee  
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Finance Committee Chair  
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Facilities Committee

### **Marty Zeeb**

GSY Treasurer  
Sequoia Lake Conference

### **Bobby Goodsby**

Facilities Committee

### **Mark Johnson**

Sequoia Lake Conference

### **Evan Gelsi**

Philanthropic Committee

### **Anthony Pulliam**

Philanthropic Committee

### **Mathu Matthews**

Philanthropic Committee

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November 9, 2025. View from Gaines Village



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TULEQUOIA



**YOGA WEEKEND**  
FOR SPIRIT, MIND, AND BODY



**OUR DONORS**  
OUR CAMPAIGNS



**CONTACT US**

### Office Address

320 N Akers St Visalia, CA 93291

### Camp Location

49716 Highway 180, Miramonte, CA 93641

### Phone

559-624-1110

### Website

[www.ymcacampsequoialake.org](http://www.ymcacampsequoialake.org)

# YOUTH CAMP

## OUR PROGRAM

Youth camp is a program truly shaped by heart. It offers meaningful experiences for children of all ages, while giving staff a deep sense of pride and accomplishment as they watch campers grow. We are committed to breaking down every barrier that might prevent a child from experiencing camp. No matter where a family lives, their financial situation, or any other challenges they may face, we strive to make camp accessible to all. Our hope is that every camper leaves with memories they'll cherish and personal growth they can carry with them long after the summer ends.

This year, we were proud to welcome 332 campers from 23 different counties. It's exciting to see our organization's impact expanding beyond just our local community, reaching youth from a variety of places and experiences.



## OUR IMPACT



1400

Youth campers have been served from rental groups at YMCACSL



4160

Total campers have benefited from Sequoia Lake through our core program and rentals



10.8%

Youth campers of Y program come from out of state



281

kids received assistance to attend camp in 2025



## THE RAGGER PROGRAM

Over many decades, campers have joined in setting personal goals to assess the values that are important to them through the ragger program. What started as a Christian tradition in self-development has become more in recent years. The mission of the program is for Y professionals to create a safe space that nourishes and strives to build up campers of all ages and backgrounds.

This year a large majority of our youth and teen campers, both in traditional and skate camp gathered to begin their journey in personal growth. This program is the first step to many and we happy to see young individuals so committed and excited to participate.



# SKATE CAMP

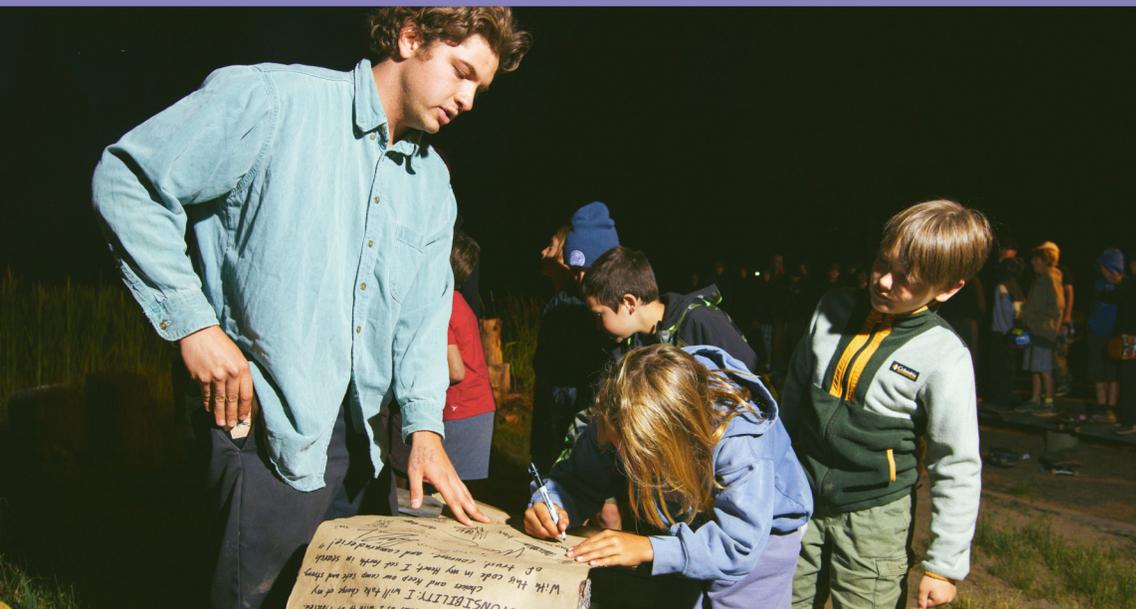


*My son loves this camp. He looks forward to it all year long. We weren't sure if this year we were able to pull it off with the rising cost of living. My son is a passionate skateboarder and a hardworking student. I want him to be able to reach for his dreams and give him this chance to return to his favorite place. Thanks for your help.*  
- Skate Youth Camper Parent

## THE SKATE MISSION

YMCA Camp Sequoia Lake Skate Camp has been a skateboarder's paradise since 1986. It's a place where every rider can feel at home beneath the towering trees of Sequoia National Forest. Skaters come from all over to shred a variety of parks and ramps, from the massive 64-ft-wide Mega Mini to the obstacle-packed Street Course and the beloved A-frame in Pirates Cove, all graced by legendary pros. The ramps, the camp encompasses the full scope of skateboarding culture, with creative community-driven programs in music and art. Campers can jam with friends, design and build their own boards in the Art Shed, or cool off with unforgettable lake. When it's time to cool off, skaters can also take advantage of the Lake Launch that sends them straight into the water with a smile.

At Skate Camp, the adventure also extends beyond skate culture. The programming is designed to bring people together, build skills and community. Embrace the title of "Skate Camp Pirate" and engage in activities like "Skate Wild," where you learn essential wilderness survival skills from fellow skaters. Then in the evening gather around the campfire for skits and to interview the week's visiting pro team. Whether you're creating custom grip-tape art, dirt boarding on freshly built tracks, or simply hanging with new friends, there's something for every style and skill level. It's a warm, welcoming world where one of a kind skate facilities meet deep-rooted culture, creativity, and lasting friendship.



## THE PIRATE CODE OUR Y CORE VALUES

At Skate Camp, our self-proclaimed "pirates" take to action by signing The Pirate Code, a fun and meaningful pledge designed to uphold our core values of Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility, and to develop our campers into confident and compassionate leaders within their communities.

# CAMP SEQUOIA

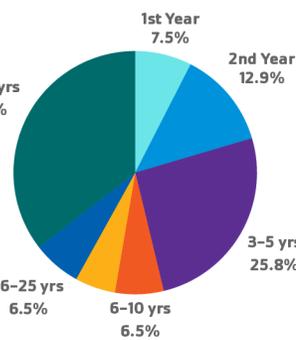
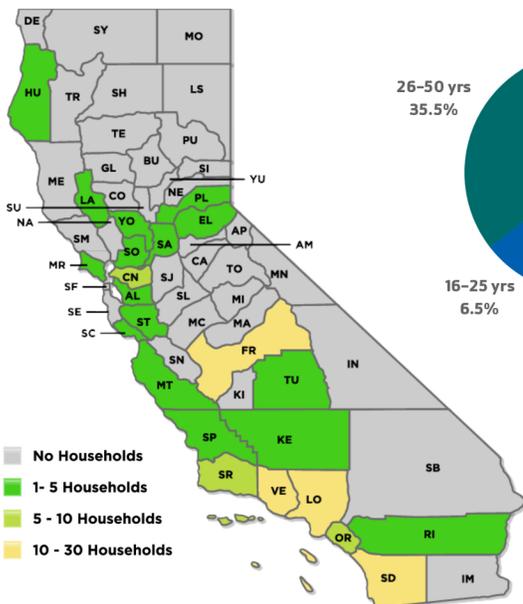


## RETURNING THE MEMORIES AND REVIVING CAMP TRADITION

Camp Sequoia is steadily growing, and we're excited about the momentum we've built. In 2021, Sequoia Village was taken over by the Golden State YMCA, and since then, we've been hard at work improving our facilities and strengthening our internal operations.

Camp Sequoia has been home to family campers for close to 50 years and we're committed to honoring that legacy. Our goal is to bring back the longstanding traditions that made this place so special. We hope in doing so, we create new memories for the next generation of campers.

In 2025, Camp Sequoia welcomed campers from across the country, including 101 households from cities throughout California. We are successfully growing and proudly served 566 campers over six sessions. Seeing new families embrace existing traditions and values has been especially meaningful and we're grateful to our returning families for the support they have shown to this growing community.



*Our annual week at Sequoia Lake is far more than a vacation, it is a cherished family retreat where four generations come together to reconnect with each other, with nature, and spiritually. Our family first began visiting Sequoia Lake in 1982, and ever since, this week has remained a top priority in our lives. It is the one time each year when we can slow down, breathe deeply, and truly focus on what matters most: family.*

*The days are filled with simple joys that are spoken about all year long, fishing, swimming in the lake, ceramics at the craft store, hiking the familiar trails and venturing off to new ones, playing games on the sandy beach, nightly games, frog hunting at night, and taking time to reflect. With the gift of having all our meals prepared for us, we're able to fully unplug from the constant buzz of everyday life. There are no decisions to make, no schedules to juggle—just nature, peace, and precious time together.*

*Sequoia Lake is truly mesmerizing, a place that feels timeless. What began as a family of five, two parents and three kids, has grown into great-grandparents, grandparents, parents, and now a new generation of little ones laughing and playing on the same beach and fishing the same lake we all grew up loving. This tradition has shaped who we are, and we are committed to keeping it alive for generations to come.*

*Sequoia Lake is home to our most treasured memories, and it will forever remain a place where our family reconnects, renews, and continues our beautiful legacy.*

- Karen Smith



# RENOVATIONS TO SEQUOIA VILLAGE

In 2025, close to \$203,000 in capital funds was invested to improve camp facilities in the village. The dining hall received significant upgrades, including new serving tables, a refreshed coffee bar, and updated flooring, improvements that had long been requested and thoughtfully planned with our campers' needs in mind.

Staff housing was also developed to enhance quality of living, a factor we consider essential to the success of camp. Our staff are an integral part of the Camp Sequoia experience, and ensuring they have comfortable, dedicated spaces is a priority.

We remain deeply appreciative to all the campers and families who share their ideas with us in a positive and constructive spirit, and especially to those who have generously donated to help make these improvements possible.



## UPCOMING UPDATES

### UPPER BATHROOM REMODEL & APARTMENTS!

Our bathroom facilities are currently undergoing a full renovation. The existing walls, toilets, and tubs have been completely removed, and the entire space has been wiped in preparation for rebuilding. The project will include the installation of new walls, modern toilets, and fully redone shower areas.

New and improved bathrooms have been one of the most frequent requests from our family campers, and we're excited to be delivering on this need. We expect the renovation to be completed in time for the 2026 season.



Bathroom Renovations



Apartment Development



During the off-season, we've been hard at work developing new apartment units in the former locations of Rustic Cabins 17 and 18.

We're making great progress and look forward to welcoming guests when they open in summer 2026!

# CAMP TULEQUOIA



IMG. 1

## ENHANCING THE TULEQUOIA EXPERIENCE: RESPONDING TO FEEDBACK AND FAMILY-FOCUSED FUN

At Tulequoia, we welcome unique families seeking a special place to reconnect with all members of their family over the course of 8 sessions. We have worked to create programs that allow our campers to step out of their comfort space and into one where people of all ages can get back to fun and play with the people that matter most.

Midway through last season, our kiln unexpectedly stopped working. We know that it left many campers unhappy to hear that their ceramics would go unfired. So this summer, we purchased a kiln twice the size of our previous model. And because of this upgrade, we were able to see some wonderful ceramic projects created by campers!

Another change introduced this last summer was our Family Games<sup>(IMG. 1)</sup> evening programming on the first evening, replacing the traditional campfire. We know families travel from both near and far, but after a long day of driving and unpacking, both parents and kids can be tired! So we listened and moved our first campfire to our second night together. By then, most campers have arrived and are much more excited to join in on the fun! Now instead, Family Games offers a way for everyone to connect through outdoor activities and to get to know our staff, as well as new campers right away. The activity was a great success, and we had a wonderful time playing together!

Improvements such as these are part of our ongoing effort to enhance the camp experience, and we're already planning more updates for Summer 2026!



## CONNECTIONS FOR CAMPERS AND STAFF ALIKE

*Leaving Australia to come and work at Camp Sequoia Lake was one of the best decisions I made after finishing high school. No one can prepare you for the amount of joy, laughter and memories that you share with people living lives so different to you, as-well as the lifelong connections you form with people living in countries all around the world.*

*Spending all day in the craft shop, listening to music, painting and talking to campers of all ages about our lives is truly a one of a kind experience. I loved every minute of it and can't wait to go back to make more special memories.*

*- Ashleigh Hopkins, Tulequoia Craft Shop '25*



# A FAMILY CAMP STORY

## THE JIMENEZ FAMILY

"Family Camp is such an important tradition in our family and has been for a very long time. It's a very special place that means so much to all of us. Sequoia Lake has been a part of my family for generations. I actually grew up coming here as a kid. My grandparents, Mel and Barbara Feaver were very involved with the Hanford YMCA after they were first married. They both eventually started working at Redwood and continued working there for many summers. My grandma was girls camp director and my granddad was in charge of maintenance. My dad, Steve Feaver, and his brothers all grew up going to Y camp every summer and then my dad started working there when he was in high school. He first worked as kitchen staff then as a camp counselor and eventually became the assistant waterfront director. My mom attended girls camp and worked as a counselor at girls camp when she was in high school as well.

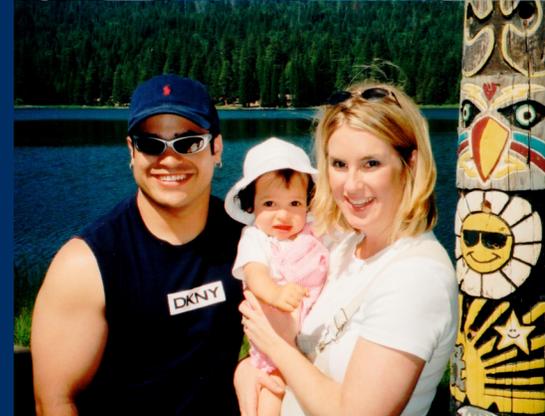
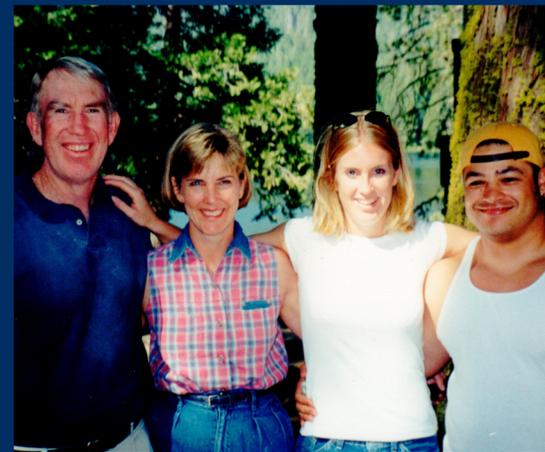


I remember going to Family Camp with my grandparents when I was a kid. I loved experiencing camp fires and Sunday chapel and meeting lifelong friends of my grandparents and parents that they met through their many years of working up at camp. My granddad loved to fish and taught my brother and I how to fish on Lake Sequoia. I have so many fond memories of my time there. During my college years, when my dad's brother Cliff started taking his family to Family Camp at Sequoia I was able up to visit them as a 'Weekend Camper' with my parents and grandparents. I met Nick while we were attending Fresno State and eventually took him up to Lake Sequoia with me when we would go for our weekend visits. He quickly learned why it held such a special place in our hearts.

As we were sitting around the dinner table at Christmas in 2011 with my parents, my uncle Cliff and his family; we all started talking about our favorite memories at Family Camp. Our daughters, Natalie & Noelle were 9 and 7 at the time and loved all of the stories and said they wanted to be able to go to Lake Sequoia too. My dad decided then and there that he wanted to take our family as well as my brothers family to Family Camp the following year. We attended Family Camp at Sequoia in 2012 and our girls were hooked! They loved everything about it and it quickly became one of their favorite places. It was so fun for both my parents and myself to experience all of our favorite parts of camp through my girls eyes. My dad taught our girls how to fish on the lake just like his dad taught my brother and I. They loved learning the same campfire songs that we had all learned when we were their age.

One of the things that we all love the most about Family Camp is that we have now met lifelong friends just like my grandparents and parents did. A lot of families that we have met over the years in session 7, have kids that have grown up with our girls and they have all become lifelong friends as well. We all look forward to seeing each and every one of them every summer. Our girls are adults now but Family Camp is still one of their favorite family vacations that they look forward to every year and they would not miss it for anything. Hopefully it will be a place that they will eventually bring their families to as well and the tradition will continue in our family for many more generations to come."

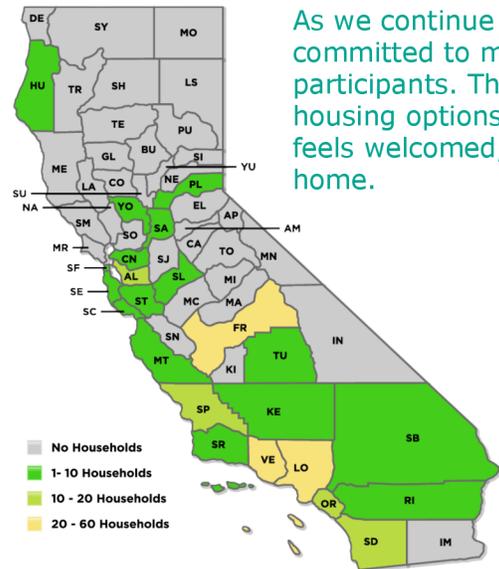
Anecdote provided by Erika Jimenez, TQ Camper



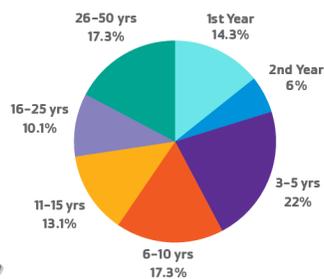
# TULEQUOIA VILLAGE

## ONGOING DEVELOPMENT

This past summer, Tulequoia Village welcomed 229 households from California alone, with families traveling from as far as Montana, Texas, Idaho, and beyond to be part of our community. In total, over 1,180 campers experienced the magic of our program.



As we continue to grow, we're committed to meeting the needs of our participants. This year, we expanded our housing options to ensure every family feels welcomed, comfortable, and at home.



Family Camp becomes more than tradition and our campers know it! On average, our campers have come to camp for 12 consecutive years. While TQ has not always been a family camp, this village has become the center for laughter, growth, and family values.



## Apartments 5 & 6!

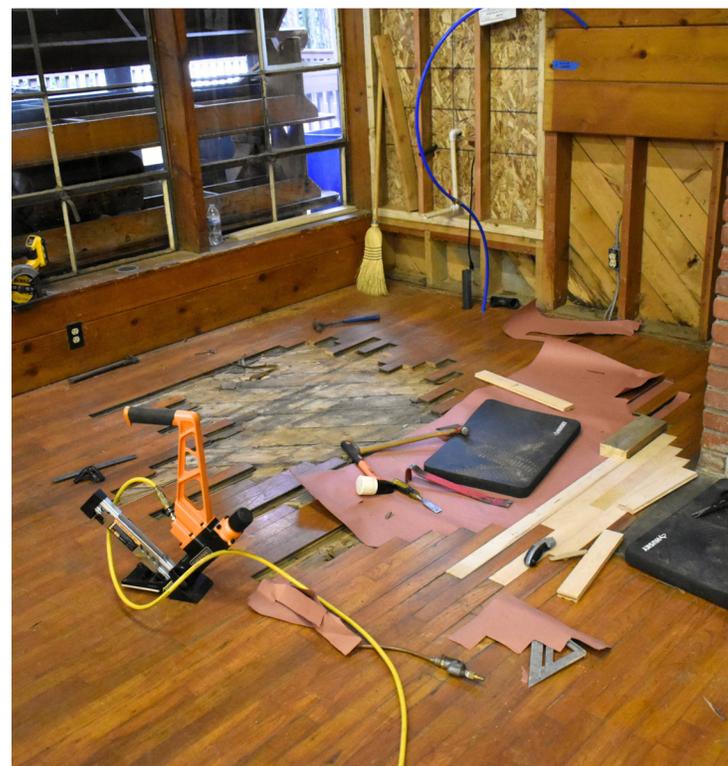
Our newly developed apartments are opening soon! We're excited to welcome residents from our waitlist and place them in the cabins they love.

These cabins have the same layout of Apartments 1-4 in Tulequoia Village, offering a divided interior that separates the queen-bed bedroom from the bunk-bed area. For added convenience, each cabin includes a private bathroom with a shower, eliminating the need to visit the shower house.

## UPCOMING RENOVATIONS

Similar to the upgrades completed at Sequoia Village, we will be making several improvements to enhance both the dining experience and overall service quality.

- **Serving Area Improvements:** Updates will be made to the serving tables to ensure food stays properly heated and presented.
- **Floor Refinishing:** Damaged sections of the wood flooring will be replaced, followed by sanding and refinishing of the entire surface for a refreshed appearance.
- **New Beverage and Hydration Stations:** Refillable water stations will be installed both inside and outside the dining hall. Additionally, we will be adding an improved coffee and drink station for greater convenience.
- **Kitchen Renovations:** The kitchen at Tulequoia will undergo upgrades aimed at improving efficiency and service quality.



# YOGA WEEKEND



## A RELAXING WEEKEND EXCURSION

Tulequoia is home to our annual yoga retreat and it was the reset we needed for mind, body, and spirit. Set against the serene backdrop of our beautiful lake, campers gathered to reconnect with themselves and with nature.

Throughout the day, participants explored a variety of yoga styles, from classical yoga to Vinyasa and Acro. Instructors guided everyone through mindful movement, encouraging both beginners and seasoned yogis over this weekend excursion. Between sessions, campers enjoyed peaceful walks around the lake, reading under shady trees, and sharing quiet moments together. Many also took advantage of the massages and sound bath. Both unique and rewarding experiences during this weekend.

The retreat wasn't just about physical practice, it was about connection, community, and renewal. Many participants spoke of feeling a sense of serenity and revival during the session. The sound of the wind through the trees and morning birdsongs, created the perfect atmosphere for this successful weekend.



*Y'all did a great job! It was one of the best yoga events I've attended and definitely the most organized!*

*- Quote from Yoga Camper*



# 2025 DONORS

The Giving Forest is a donor recognition system we created inspired by the sequoia trees near us.

## ADAMS

Adams, is thirteenth largest giant sequoia in the world and located within the Giant Forest Grove. It has a total estimated volume of 38,956 cu ft.

**\$1 – 100**

Adam Strassberg  
Anna Boland  
Alisa Steinkamp  
Catherine Borg  
Claire & Benjamin Leong  
Dale & Connie Claes  
Damar Saavedra  
Dan Oster  
Donna Mott  
Eddie Hernandez  
Fernando Jaureche  
Janet Lenocker

Jerry & Mary Hill  
Joseph Lamaestra  
Julie & Chris Wesolek  
Kelita Parker  
Kellie Guglielmelli & Hofmeister  
Kristi Kinzel  
Linda Dolan  
Lloyd & Diane Talbot  
Loretta & David Matheson  
Lynn Freeman  
Marikyn Rossa  
Mark Merlo

Melanie Salwasser  
Millie Turner  
Renee Murakami  
Rita Baker-Sears  
Robert Leeds  
Sara Atienza & Tat Luong  
Sarah Chumley & Marisa Walsh  
Scott & Natascha Cohen  
Seth Johnson  
Shari Mark  
Virginia Dighiera  
Wendy Del Carlo

## FRANKLIN

The eighth largest sequoia in the world, located in the Giant Forest Grove. It has a total volume of 41,280 cu ft.

**\$100 – 500**

Ann & Al Gushurst  
Beth & Nathaniel Brigham  
Carol Jacobs  
Chris Manners  
Claire & Benjamin Leong  
Clark Farms  
Courtney Moore  
Craig & Susan Updegrove  
Dave, Lauren, Jack, & Blake Hay  
Denise Fletcher  
Dick Toriggino  
Donna Sheardown & Jane Ninfo  
Doris Fischer-Colbrie & Richard Schoen  
EJM Farming

Elizabeth & Reid Stephens  
Emilia Morris  
G G And W Farms LLC.  
Graves Ranch Inc  
Henry & Mary Reath  
Karen and Gary Potter  
Jieun Jang & Frank Liu  
Jody & Susan Graves  
Keri Wagner  
Larry Jorge  
Lillian/Felt, Doug Lee  
Lions Club of Kingsburg  
Lonnie Downs  
Maria Pezzulo & Scott Tatro

Mark Sperrazzo  
Mary & Mark Allen  
Mary Hoshiko Haughey  
Mary Sharon Smith  
Mike Burson  
Rachal Carr  
Scott & Natascha Cohen  
Sharon Blunk  
Steve Houk  
Susan Wilson  
The Blackbaud Giving fund  
Thomas & Joan Akin MD  
Thorin Allen  
Valerie Mauldin

## GENESIS

The Genesis Tree is the seventh largest tree in the world, located in the Mountain Home Grove.

**\$500 – 1,000**

Brian Dahlquist  
Britt & Judy Fussel  
Clovis/Fresno Y's Mens Club  
Dan & Arlene Eberly

Geffin Vera  
Josh & Eileen Bloom  
Ken Nycum  
Luanne & Bob Kittle

Mary Renno  
Paul Andresen  
Rusti Icenogle & Guglielmo Morandin  
Sharon Blunk

## STAGG

Stagg is a giant sequoia in Alder Creek Grove. 42,557 cu ft.  
The tree is believed to be over 3,000 years old, making it one of the oldest living giant sequoias.

**\$1,000 – 5,000**

Alexis & David Beckstead  
Billy Palmer  
Edward Dunkel  
Homer Porter

Jackie Mark  
Jody & Susan Graves  
Mun Takeda  
Nick & Erika Jimenez

Nikki & Brian Leonard  
Susan Deason  
Thomas Fulwider

## BOOLE

The Boole Tree is the sixth tallest sequoia in the world and with the largest circumference.

**\$5,000 – 10,000**

Bonnie & Edward Barkley

Craig & Susan Updegrove

Donna Anding

## LINCOLN

Lincoln is the name of one of the largest giant sequoias located in Giant Forest with a volume of 44,471 cu ft. **\$10,000 – 25,000**

Clovis/Fresno Y's Mens Club

## PRESIDENT SHERMAN

General Sherman is located in the Giant Forest Grove. It is the largest known living single-stem tree on Earth. It has a volume of 52,508 cu ft.

**\$100,000 – 500,000**

Charles and Celia Foss

Phil Dixon

Wes Sumida

# CREATE CAMP JOY

BE A PART OF THE MAGIC



## GIFT THE GIFT OF CAMP: CAMPERSHIPS

Every child deserves a summer of adventure! Our campership program ensures that every child, regardless of their family's income, can experience the joy and growth of YMCA camp.

### Our 2026 Goal

We need to raise \$125,000 to send 300 kids to camp!

## SUPPORT OUR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Donate to Sequoia Facility Renovations: Refer to Sequoia Camp Page for current projects

Donate to Tulequoia Upgrades to Camp: Refer to Tulequoia Village Page for current projects

## FISH FUND

Every year we replenish our trout population and have also worked on reducing our small mouth bass population to allow them to grow to a bigger healthier size while giving our baby trout a chance to survive. Donations to our Fish Fund directly support the sustainment of fishing resources for all of our campers.

## GENERAL CAMP FUND

A gift to our general camp fund helps us respond to the areas that require more attention. It's a meaningful way to support camp when you simply want to help wherever help and do not have a specific program in mind. Please feel free to reach out with questions if you would like to discuss the allocation of your donation.



