

FAQ



COMMUNITY CAMPS 2026 YMCA CAMP SEQUOIA LAKE

GENERAL FAQS

WHAT ARE COMMUNITY CAMPS?

Community Camps are new 2026 programs at YMCA Camp Sequoia Lake (Millwood/Skate Camp), created with partner groups from across North America. Each camp centers connection, inclusivity, and time in nature, with optional activities like skateboarding, swimming, hiking, arts, and rest — giving people space to unplug, build community, and recharge. Partners include The Rose Club, Tutifruti, Queer Skate Toronto, Sk8 N Meet Santana, & Mandatory Play.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WT AND FAMILY REUNION* CAMP? WHICH CAMP IS RIGHT FOR ME?

Women &/or Trans Week is for women, trans, and non-binary adults (18+) who want a supportive space to connect, try new activities, and skateboard, with lessons offered throughout the week. Family Reunion Week is open to all ages and identities and focuses on relaxed connection with loved ones, featuring optional activities and downtime — no formal skate instruction. Choose WT Week for a growth-focused, skate-centered adult experience; choose Family Reunion Week for an inclusive, flexible retreat with family or chosen family.

Family Reunion Week = Aug 3-7, 2026 (Mon - Fri)

Women &/or Trans Week = Aug 12-16, 2026 (Weds - Sun)

DO I HAVE TO BE A SKATEBOARDER TO ATTEND CAMP?

Nope — skateboarding is part of camp culture (there are 5 skateparks to choose from), but participation in everything is always optional. You can join activities, hang out, explore nature, or simply rest. Camp is about community and showing up however feels right for you. Everyone belongs here.

WHAT DOES A DAY AT CAMP LOOK LIKE?

Days blend optional activities, meals, and plenty of free time to rest or connect. You can jump into everything or take it slow — camp is about finding your own rhythm. Expect movement, laughter, nature breaks, and community moments throughout the day. Every day balances play, learning, and downtime. See the sample schedules to get an idea of what camp entails.

WHAT KIND OF ACTIVITIES CAN I DO AT CAMP?

- Swimming
- Boating
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Music Room
- Reading
- Journaling
- Morning Run Club / Yoga
- Arts & Crafts
- Skateboarding
- Pickleball
- Basketball
- Visiting Sequoia National Park
- Dancing
- Bird Watching
- Star Gazing
- Board Games/Cards
- Relaxing/Napping
- Bring your own game/activities for yourself or to share with others

TRAVEL + LODGING + MEALS

HOW DO I GET TO CAMP?

Campers arrange their own travel — it's the first step of the adventure. YMCA Camp Sequoia Lake is about a 4 hour drive from the Bay Area and Los Angeles. Traveling from outside of California? The closest airport is Fresno (FAT), though many people also fly into larger airports and coordinate carpools/car rentals with fellow campers. From Fresno, camp is about a 45 minute drive into the mountains. 4-wheel drive is not needed, all roads are paved with the exception of a short dirt road once you arrive on camp premises. Please plan to arrive on Day 1 of camp between 12–3pm and depart on the last day between 12–3pm.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT FROM LODGING, BATHROOMS, SHOWERS?

You can choose between tent camping (bring your own gear) or shared cabins with a few fellow campers. Cabins include mattresses but no bedding, so pack a sleeping bag, fitted sheet and pillow to stay comfy. Sleeping bag and pillow rentals are also available. Generally cabins have 4 bunk beds each and a max of 4 adults per cabin. Bathrooms and showers are located throughout camp and include both private rooms and shared stalls. It's rustic, welcoming, and part of the classic camp experience. Camper vans or sleeping in your car is also welcome however hookups are not available and food cannot be left inside vehicles.

IF I CHOOSE TO BE IN A CABIN, CAN I PICK MY CABINMATES?

Yes — if you're coming with friends or a group, we'll place you together. Solo campers are matched thoughtfully based on age, sleep habits, and preferences. You'll complete a short questionnaire before camp to help us make good pairings. Cabin assignments are finalized when you arrive.

ARE THERE BEARS AT CAMP?

Yes — Sequoia Lake is bear country, and bears are very interested in food. All food must be stored in the designated dining hall area, never in cabins, tents, or cars. Following this rule keeps everyone — humans and bears — safe. Respect the wildlife, and they'll keep their distance.

WHAT ARE MEALS LIKE AT CAMP? CAN I BRING MY OWN FOOD TO CAMP?

During camp, the Y serves three meals daily and works to accommodate common dietary needs (ie. vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, dairy-free). You're welcome to bring labeled non-perishable snacks, and campers with special dietary preferences may store personal food in the communal dining area. All food must stay in the dining hall to protect campers and wildlife. Think shared meals with camp energy and flexibility.

NOTE: On Day 1 of camp (arrival day) the first meal provided is dinner so pack a lunch to enjoy when you arrive or eat in Fresno before arriving to camp. On Day 5 (departure day), only breakfast is provided.

IS THERE SERVICE/WIFI AT CAMP?

Cell service is spotty and wifi is nonexistent, which makes camp the perfect excuse to unplug. Cabins and communal buildings (dining hall, rec hall, bathrooms) have outlets for charging devices, but plan to lean into nature and face-to-face connection. In case of emergencies, campers can be reached via the camp landline, or access cell service by driving about 20 minutes outside of camp. Camp is meant to be a break from screens and daily distractions - it's a digital detox with a safety net.

PAYMENT & REGISTRATION

HOW MUCH DOES CAMP COST?

Women &/or Trans Week: \$649 per camper (must be 18+ yrs old at the start of camp)

Family Reunion Week:

\$599 Ages 15-100 yrs | \$399 Ages 9-14yrs | \$299 4-8yrs | Children 3 and under are free

HOW DO PAYMENT PLANS WORK?

Payment plans make it easier to spread out your camp cost. You'll pay a non-refundable \$50 deposit at registration, and the remaining balance is automatically divided across the remaining scheduled payment dates. The later you register, the fewer payment dates remain — so each installment may be larger. Payments are charged automatically to your selected payment method, helping you stay on track without extra steps.

Example for WT Camp Payment Plan, if you register on Feb 15th:

Cost = \$649

Register on Feb 15 with a \$50 deposit, remaining balance is split up evenly across the months leading up to camp, so on the first of each month, from March to Aug, \$99.83 will be automatically charged to your payment method.

1 payment of \$50

6 payments of \$99.83

Deposits are non-refundable, see the full cancellation policy below.

WHAT IS THE CANCELLATION/REFUND POLICY?

YMCA Camp Sequoia Lake work to provide high-quality programs at an affordable cost. This cancellation policy allows us to plan staffing and resources responsibly while keeping fees as low as possible.

All cancellations must be submitted in writing (email, mail, or fax) to protect your reservation.

- Deposits are non-refundable
- Before June 30: 50% of the full cost is refundable
- After July 1: no refunds are available

MISCELLANEOUS

IS DRINKING ALLOWED AT CAMP?

No - alcohol as well as drugs, tobacco, pets, weapons, and fireworks are strictly prohibited under YMCA policy and protects the unplugged, present-in-the-moment magic that makes camp special. This rule helps keep camp safe and welcoming for everyone. Violating it puts your registration and participation at risk, and you may be asked to leave camp immediately. Following this policy is required to remain eligible for this and future camp programs.

WILL THERE BE LESSONS FOR SKATEBOARDING?

During WT Week, skateboarding instruction is offered a few times throughout the week for anyone who wants to build their skills. Family Reunion Week is more free-form — lifeguards are on duty for waterfront time, but most other activities are camper-led. Camp is all about sharing skills, games, and hobbies with each other, so if you love something, bring it. It's a learn-together, play-together kind of vibe. Camper led activities are highly encouraged.

DO I HAVE TO WEAR A HELMET, EVEN IF I'M A VERY EXPERIENCED SKATEBOARDER?

Yes — helmets are required any time you skateboard, regardless of skill level. The only exception is for professional skateboarders. Campers must bring their own helmet; skateboarding isn't allowed without one. Pads are recommended but optional. The nearest hospital is 45 minutes away.

ARE OTHER WHEELS ALLOWED? IE) ROLLER SKATES, IN-LINE SKATES, SCOOTERS, BMX?

While we love and appreciate our friends on quads, bikes and various wheels, the skateparks at camp are limited to skateboarding only. To ensure the safety of our participants, we cannot allow any other type of wheels.

FOR FAMILY REUNION WEEK, DO CAMPERS UNDER 18 NEED PARENT/GUARDIAN SUPERVISION?

Yes — all minors must attend with a parent or adult guardian. Camp is designed as a shared experience, with families participating together. Staff cannot act as guardians during the week. It's about creating memories side by side. WT week is adults only 18+.