

YMCA Camp Ravenclyff Youth Summer Camp

For ages 9-14

For nearly 100 years, campers have experienced the magic of a week away at Camp Ravenclyff! Our camp program offers an engaging week of activities for our campers including crafts, sports, archery, nature play, dramatic play, swimming and canoeing in the river, hiking and so much more.



Highlights of the Camp Ravenclyff experience

- Our program format and small camp size, with a maximum of just 80 campers each session, allows us to truly build community. By the end of each session, most of our staff know every camper and campers have made friends in their cabin and beyond, even if they didn't know a single person when they arrived.
- The first days at camp are designed to help campers get to know each and become familiar with camp activities and the layout of camps. Campers then choose most of their daily activities from a wide variety of options
- Each day the counselor leads their cabin group in a special activity designed to help them bond as a group, grow as individuals and enjoy special activities they wouldn't otherwise get to do at camp
- Each day begins with the camp community coming together for a morning inspiration in a beautiful grove overlooking the Eel River. Inspiration is a skit, story or activity designed to focus on a theme like making new friends, trying new things, being grateful, and more.
- Each evening we come back together around the campfire, enjoying songs, skits and stories, frequently starring our campers.
- On Wednesday of each week the cabin groups venture up to our nearby backwoods property and set up camp at their own campsite. Here they'll cook over the fire, enjoy special outdoor activities as a cabin group and sleep under a gorgeous blanket of stars. A highlight of the week for nearly every camper, they return the next morning dirty and beaming as they share stories of their adventures – and then head to the showers!
- While to our campers it just feels like fun, our intentional program focuses on specific goals including helping our campers make new friends, develop social and emotional learning skills, understand their role in a living group, appreciate their outdoor world, exercise their imagination and more!
- Even the arrival at camp is magical! The narrow access road to camp is too much for our buses to manage, so when campers arrive, they gather in a park grove where staff lead them on a short hike to the river, bring them across the river in canoes and walk up into camp, entering through our inspiration grove. And don't worry, we take care of getting all their belongings into our camp vehicles and brought into camp for them!



If you are ready to register for camp, please return to the main Camp Ravenclyff webpage and click the link to online registration. More information follows this page. If you have additional questions, please email our Camp Director at bcartwright@scfymca.org. We hope to see your child at camp this summer!

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Cabin Life

Our roomy cabins feature 10 bunks, each with its own cubby for campers to store their belongings. This will be home for the week so we encourage campers to really move in and make their space their own. Each cabin will be supervised by at least one adult cabin counselor who may be supported by a Camper In Leadership Training, or CILT, who is part of our teen leadership program. Up to 8 campers of similar age will share a cabin together.



Our cabins are designated as “boys” and “girls” cabins, with girls cabins on one side and boys on the other. We assign cabins based on gender identity. Campers and staff who are non-binary are asked to select the cabin grouping in which they will feel the most safe and comfortable. We assign cabin leadership based on skills, experience and the needs of camp. In some cases counselors or CILTs may be assigned to a cabin of campers with a different gender identity than their own. We have very strict guidelines, training and supervision around child safety and privacy and this is the top priority for all cabins at all times.

Cabins do not have electricity or bathroom facilities. Campers use our centralized boys and girls restroom facilities which have lights, flush toilets and hot showers.

Food at Camp

Meals are cooked from scratch in our camp kitchen and we provide 3 substantial meals each day at camp. We can accommodate food allergies and dietary restrictions including vegetarian, vegan, lactose free and gluten free meals. Campers who don't eat pork and/or beef will be given the vegetarian meal when camp meals contain those items. While we can provide gluten free meals, we are not able to guarantee a sterile kitchen. For campers with more severe allergies, we encourage parents to contact us in advance to discuss their camper's specific needs to make sure we can accommodate them. In these cases, if deemed necessary, we do allow parents to send specific food for their campers that we will store in the kitchen and provide to the camper as needed. We keep a fruit bowl available throughout the day and campers are provided a mid-afternoon snack each day.

Being at camp puts extra demands on our bodies and its important for everyone at camp to eat well and stay hydrated. It is important campers are willing to eat the food served so they can maintain their energy and health at camp. We are not able to provide individual meals based on individual likes and dislikes. Because it attracts critters into cabins, and due to health concerns, we do not allow campers to bring food or snacks to camp and do not allow food in care packages.

Safety at Camp

Safety is our top priority at camp. We prohibit drugs including marijuana, alcohol, weapons, sexual activity of any kind and violence. Anyone, staff or camper, engaging in any of these activities may be subject to immediate dismissal from camp.

We love our location on the Eel River and take safety at the waterfront seriously. No one is allowed to enter the water unless one of our certified lifeguards is on duty. Additionally, because we are on what we call “brown water” meaning we can't see the bottom, we require all swimmers to wear a lifejacket while swimming regardless of swim level. We do also swim check swimmers on the first full day at camp. They will be given a wristband to designate which parts of the swim area in which they can swim.

Our Staff

We pride ourselves on our well-trained and hard-working staff team. All staff are at least 18 years of age or high-school graduate or equivalent. Our staff are trained in First Aid & CPR, and we have a medic on staff who is an EMT or Nurse. Program staff participate in an extensive training a full week before campers arrive. Staff are trained on camp operations, safety, child abuse prevention and code of conduct, youth development, addressing homesickness, decision making, program planning and much more. All staff complete reference checks and are LiveScan fingerprinted before the start of camp. Our staff love to support our campers and provide memorable, fun-filled activities!



Our Camp Leadership Team

Our Camp Director, Bria “Disney” Cartwright started attending Camp Ravencliff when she was a teen, attending family camp and participating in the CILT program. Now a consultant to other organizations on youth development, leading change, developing culture and gender equity, she spent her career with the YMCA and returned when Ravencliff re-opened in 2022. She has successfully directed 4 camps on the West Coast and has directed Camp Ravencliff for over 20 years. She believes in the power camp to help children and staff develop, grow and discover and embrace their truest selves because she’s seen it happen time and time again. She is excited to welcome campers to camp again this summer!

Our Assistant Director, Sunny “Chai” Elliott grew up at Camp Ravencliff. She was a camper, CILT, Counselor and Director and also returned to Camp Ravencliff when it re-opened in 2022. She excels at working with children and staff alike and provides nurturing support while encouraging growth and trying new things. A native of Humboldt County, she enjoys being back among the tall trees and fresh air and hearing the sound of laughter along the Eel River each summer.

Our CILT Director, Victoria “Punzie” Morado, discovered the magic of camp when she joined the staff team at YMCA Camp Loma Mar a number of years ago. She excelled as a counselor for 3 years and fell in love with Ravencliff when the camps were working together. A teacher in the school year, she truly enjoys working with teens, so jumped at the opportunity to be the CILT Director when Ravencliff reopened in 2022. She loves being at camp and helping develop the next generation of leaders.

