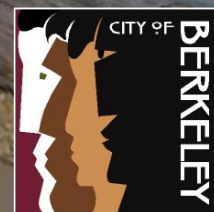


# Tuolumne 50 & Better Camp Information Packet



# Welcome to Camp!

Just think of it...no cooking, cleaning or shopping... just time to enjoy the peaceful, beautiful mountains, lakes, waterfalls and pine scented air. Welcome to 50 & Better Camp! We hope you are looking forward to your upcoming Camp experience, and whether this is your first time joining us for 50 & Better Camp, or you are a seasoned veteran, I want to thank you for joining us this season.

50 & Better Camp is designed and led by active adults who volunteer to lead a wide variety of programs at Camp. For that reason, each session of 50 & Better Camp and each year of our program is filled with a wide variety of different, unique activities. If you have a program, workshop, activity, or favorite hike you would like to lead, we encourage you to do so! If you have activities you would like to lead, or ideas about how to make 50 & Better Camp even better, contact Peter Mui at [petermui@gmail.com](mailto:petermui@gmail.com).

Since 50 & Better Camp is one of the last programs of our season, we appreciate your support to help

keep Camp clean, assist with clearing your own tables during meals, and point out any facility issues or concerns to our Camp Office or Camp Manager, Nick Piatt. We also encourage Campers to be conservative of water consumption during their stay, since Berkeley Tuolumne Camp has a limited water supply.

If you have any last-minute questions about your registration, please contact the City of Berkeley Recreation offices at (510) 981-5140 or [camps@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:camps@cityofberkeley.info). For questions about conditions at Camp, weather, lodging, or meals, you can contact the Camp directly at (209) 962-1939.

We hope this guide serves as a useful tool in preparing you for your camp experience. For more information about Berkeley Tuolumne Camp, you can visit our website: [www.cityofberkeley.info/cam](http://www.cityofberkeley.info/cam)

Sincerely,

The City of Berkeley Camps Team



## 50 & Better General Information

Do you want to keep your boots in your suitcase, completely relax, enjoy a good book or just be by yourself? We invite you to do exactly as you please during your stay at camp. We are certain you are going to have a wonderful time.

- Most activities at 50 & Better Camp are camper led. Before camp, please contact Peter Mui at [petermui@gmail.com](mailto:petermui@gmail.com) if you would like to lead an activity during your stay. Check the Activity Board (outside the Dining Hall) for announcements and schedules of planned camper-led activities. Activities will be announced at meals, and additional information may be posted in the Dining Hall.
- Some campers may wish to bring along additional snacks and food items. Bear proof food storage lockers are available throughout the camp property. Small amounts of ice (to cool beverages, ice bags for injuries, etc.) will be available at the Dining Hall upon request however, large amounts of ice (fill coolers, etc.) may be purchased from the Tuolumne Camp Store.
- If you are planning to leave camp for hiking or out of camp excursions, please notify the kitchen staff on the bag lunch sign-up sheet. Lunch fixings will be set out after breakfast (~10:00 AM) in the Dining Hall area each morning. Pack a lunch and mark it with your name. Think green! Although paper bags, Ziplock baggies, and paper napkins will be made available, we recommend bringing along a plastic sandwich container, a cloth napkin and lunch bag to help reduce waste if you plan to leave camp regularly. o If you want to leave camp early (before 8:00) in the morning, check with the Kitchen staff about preparing a lunch for you. If you choose, you can bag up some dinner left-overs for lunch the next day. There is also sun butter & jelly for sandwiches, cereal, milk, fruit, coffee and tea available at all hours.
- On the first and last evening of each session at 5:45 PM, Tuolumne Camp Staff will host a SOCIAL HOUR. Light Refreshments and Hors d'oeuvres and punch will be provided. Meet on the Island for our Social Hour.



### **Recreation Activities at 50 & Better Camp**

50 & Better Camp is designed and led by active adults who volunteer to lead a wide variety of programs at Camp. For that reason, each session of 50 & Better Camp and each year of our program is filled with a wide variety of different, unique activities. If you have a program, workshop, activity, or favorite hike you would like to lead, we encourage you to do so! If you have activities you would like to lead, or ideas about how to make 50 & Better Camp even better, contact Peter Mui at [petermui@gmail.com](mailto:petermui@gmail.com).

# Contact Information & Location/Directions

## Contact Information

If you have questions or concerns prior to the start of camp please call the camp office at (209) 962-1939

### Camp Manager

Nick Piatt (he/him)  
Cell: 510-365-5005

City Office (October–May): 510-981-5147

Camps Office (May–September) 209-962-1939

[NPiatt@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:NPiatt@cityofberkeley.info)

### Recreation Program Supervisor

Justin Pitcher  
(510) 981-5144

[JPitcher@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:JPitcher@cityofberkeley.info)

### City of Berkeley Recreation Office

1720 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Berkeley, CA 94710  
(510) 981-5140

[camps@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:camps@cityofberkeley.info)

## Location and Directions

Tuolumne Camp is located just outside Yosemite National Park. It takes about 3 hours to drive to Tuolumne Camp from Berkeley, CA.

**Tuolumne Camp**  
**31585 Hardin Flat Road**  
**Groveland, CA 95321**

### Directions to Berkeley Tuolumne Camp from Orinda, Lafayette, Pleasant Hill and parts of Walnut Creek:

- 1) Take Highway 24 East to 680 where Oakland-Stockton Exit junctions with 580.
- 2) Take Highway 580 East to 205 East to Livermore/Tracy.
- 3) Take Highway 120 (Manteca) to Highway 99. Take Highway 99 North for about 1 mile then, look for signs to Highway 120 on right. Follow signs to Highway 120. You will drive through Escalon and Oakdale on Highway 120.
- 4) Follow Highway 120. About 25 miles after Oakdale, Turn right to follow Highway 120 as it junctions with Highway 108. Highway 120 goes all the way to Berkeley Tuolumne Camp.
- 5) About 15 Miles from that junction you will pass Don Pedro Reservoir. You will see signs for Priest Grade Road. Both "Old" and "New" Priest Grade Roads lead to the same place. Decide how steep of an ascent your car can take and pick one. The steeper one is a right turn and the less steep just keep going straight. When you get to the top continue for approximately 7 miles and you will be in Groveland, CA. Continue all the way on Highway 120 for approximately 21 more miles and you will see a sign on the right reading, "Hardin Flat and Berkeley Tuolumne Camp". If you miss this turn keep a sharp eye out and on the right you will see Yosemite Lakes Drive and a Texaco gas station. Both of these roads will take you to Hardin Flat Road.
- 6) Turn left at the bottom of the hill and it will take you into Berkeley Tuolumne Camp.

### From Berkeley, Oakland or San Francisco to Tuolumne Camp:

- 1) Take Highway 580 East to 205 East to Livermore/Tracy.
- 2) Take Highway 120 (Manteca) to Highway 99. Take Highway 99 North for about one mile then look for signs to Highway 120 on the right. (See #2 above for continuation of directions to Berkeley Tuolumne Camp.)

**Yosemite Lakes Road is currently closed due to erosion so you will have to turn down Hardin Flat Road to get to camp.**



# COVID-19 Related Protocols

We will be following the City of Berkeley and California Department of Public Health (CDPH) guidelines. Campers should expect the following COVID-19 related requirements:

## While at Camp

If someone exhibits symptoms at Camp, they will be isolated and tested for COVID-19.

Campers must remain in isolation until negative test results are received.

If a positive test result is received, we will require that individual to return home.

Close contacts of individuals that have COVID-19 will be tested for COVID-19 and should wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days.

## After Camp

Campers who exhibit symptoms after Camp should get tested for COVID-19. If you recently attended Tuolumne and receive a positive test result, we ask that you please contact our Camps Office immediately at (510) 981-5140 or [camps@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:camps@cityofberkeley.info) so that we can work with public health providers to determine next steps. These changes are being implemented to look out for the health & safety of our campers and staff, and we appreciate campers' willingness to follow these protocols.

If you have any questions about these changes, or you would like additional information, please contact the Camps Office at (510) 981-5140 or [camps@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:camps@cityofberkeley.info).

# Accommodation and Meals



## Accommodations

Our tent-cabins are complete with cots and mattresses, a shelf unit, a deck, and a view. Some cabins overlook the river; others are nestled in the hillside and have views of camp. Some cabins have electricity, ramped entrances, or are located close to bathrooms.

If you require any special accommodations (such as electricity for a CPAP machine), please obtain a note from your doctor and submit it to the Camps Office before you arrive at camp. We only take special requests for medical reasons; all other cabins are assigned during the check-in process.

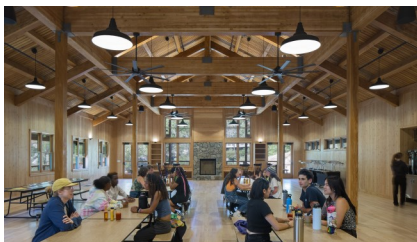
## Meal times

- Breakfast: 8:30 AM
- Lunch: 12:30 PM
- Dinner: 6:30 PM (Saturday: 6:00 PM)

## Dining Hall seating chart

A seating chart for your family's table assignment will be outside the Dining Hall.

If you have a special seating request, please tell the Dining Hall Supervisor on duty.



## Recycling

Berkeley Tuolumne Camp is not able to recycle at the moment. If interested we ask that you take your recycling back to Berkeley to recycle it properly. Thank you!

## Meal announcements

There are three bells that signal the approach of each meal:

- First bell rings 45 minutes before each meal
- Second bell rings 15 minutes before each meal (these serve as a heads up and allow you time to get ready – so you don't need to wear a watch while you're at camp).
- Third bell rings and it's time to eat

After you're done eating, we ask that you clear your own dishes. Please scrape your plates into the garbage cans and put dirty dishes on the metal counter at the dish window.

## Special requests

If you have any food allergies, dietary restrictions, birthdays, anniversaries, or any special requests please tell the office upon your arrival. You can also tell the Dining Hall and kitchen staff.

## Dining Hall hours

The Dining Hall is open 24 hours a day. The lights turn off at 11:00 PM. You are welcome to bring your own lantern. "Quiet Time" begins at 10:15 PM (so please lower your voices or bring out that book). Coffee, tea, hot water, and hot chocolate, milk, and microwave are usually always available.

We ask that campers pick up their cups and wipe any spills. And if you so desire, board games and cards can be found at the back of the Dining Hall on the shelves.

## Electronics

We encourage you to take a break from your phone, tablet, computer, or other electronic screen devices while at camp. Please sit back, unplug and enjoy the sounds of nature and families enjoying it. We have limited wifi and cell phone service.

If you need either, please visit the office for a resource list of places to go outside camp for those services.

## Quiet time

### Camp-wide quiet time 10:15 PM - 7:45 AM

Please keep noise to a minimum during this time, so that others can sleep.

### Daily quiet hour 1:15 PM - 2:30 PM (strictly enforced)

If you do not wish to participate in our rest period, you may enjoy several great nearby hiking/swimming spots during this time. Headphones are the best way to have your music and respect camp tradition. Radios, TVs, or other media devices without headphones are not allowed at camp.

# Check-In & Out Procedures

## Parking

Please park in the long-term parking lot (across the river from main camp). We will have staff and signs along the path to guide you into main camp, where you will check-in at the Office. ADA parking is available near the office for those who need it. Our temporary lot by the Rec Hall is to be used for loading and unloading only and is not to be used a permanent parking. Please do not park in the area behind the dining hall as our staff need access to that area for trash runs and it is where our Sysco delivery truck delivers. Thank you.

## Check-in

We will not be able to check you in before the start of your designated check-in window, but if you arrive later than anticipated, we will ensure you are checked-in and receive a cabin in your zone.

After you have completed the standard check-in items, you'll get to choose your cabin.

Your party will randomly pull 3 cabin numbers from a pool of cabins in your zone and there are two options:

- 1) You may decide to select a cabin you pulled based on the map and office staff recommendations
- 2) You may decide to put a hold on up to two cabin options and take a walk-through camp to look at your 2 choices before making your decision. While you walk, the third cabin will be replaced in the cabin pool and may be considered by other campers.

Once you have selected your cabin, you will decide whether you want "Mait Dawgs" (camp maintenance staff)



and move-in crew to help you unload, or whether you would like to move yourself. You will then sign up for a move in time slot.

When your time slot arrives, please bring your car to the parking spot designated on the sign up sheet where staff will be waiting to help you with your luggage.

## Check-out

It's sad but true – at some point, you will have to leave Tuolumne Camp.

Checkout time on Monday will be after breakfast and lunch. We ask that you are out of your cabin and out of camp by 2:30pm.

Our Mait-dogs will help you move your luggage to the parking spot designated on the Move-Out sign up sheet.

Please be all packed up and ready to go so that you can be offsite by those times. We greatly appreciate it!



# General Information



## Restrooms, Showers, and Laundry Facilities

Yes, and all these facilities have hot water. Restrooms are spread out throughout all of camp. We have a washer and dryer for camper use. If you have young children who want to take a bath, use the tubs in the family restrooms, and be sure and clean them when you are finished.

## Green Chair Circle

The circle of Adirondack chairs is located in front of the Dining Hall, the Green Chair Circle is a great place to read a book, meet new people, or simply relax for a while as the camp day slides by. The Green Chair Circle is the social hub of the camp, conveniently located right in the thick of the action.

## Can we build a campfire on our own?

The answer is no. We do not allow campers to have open flame or heating elements of any kind at camp. This includes campfires, incense, space heaters, fireworks, etc.

## Fireplace in the Dining Hall

Feel free to create and enjoy the warmth of a fire in the Dining Hall fireplace. Please reference the posted instructions about safe fire-building at Tuolumne. Fires should be made using kindling and paper; we will not be using lighter fluid.

## Keep Camp Clean

Please help us keep camp clean by picking up mugs, trash, clothing items, rafts, etc., so that every camper can enjoy the pristine beauty of camp. The beautiful surroundings of Berkeley Tuolumne Camp make camp what it is, and we want to preserve it to the best of our ability.

## Water Conservation

Water conservation is very important at camp. We draw the water we use directly from the Tuolumne River and maintain our own water treatment system, which has its limitations. We adhere to a strict maximum capacity for camp for the purpose of preserving our water system, and to allow a certain amount of water per camper per day – this amount, however, is limited. We kindly ask that you be conservative with the length of your showers and water usage in general.

## Trails and Paths

Please help us minimize erosion by only using designated trails and pathways. We want to leave a minimal impact on the land we occupy and encourage the growth of seedlings as they offer us shade and provide habitat, and we can enjoy their beauty. Please be sure to stay clear of the reforestation plots you may see around camp, as we are growing shade for our future. Additionally, there is a sensitive preservation and protection area across from the main parking lot that is fenced off. Please do not cross the fence into that area, and make sure kids are aware of the need to stay out of this sensitive protection zone.

## Help maintain this beautiful forest

Berkeley Tuolumne Camp is operated under a special use permit with the Stanislaus National Forest. We are responsible for maintaining the property so future generations can enjoy it as much as we do. Per special use permit regulations, please do not alter any cabins, buildings, paths, or dig holes at camp. Any building or repairs must be completed by City staff as prior approval by the City and U.S. Forest Service is a requirement for maintaining our use permit.

## How to support staff and BTC?

If you would like to express your gratitude through a donation, you can do this through the Friends of Berkeley Tuolumne Camp (FOBTC). Please make checks payable to: FOBTC/Ahwahnee Fund. Your donation will be used to provide the staff with an end-of-the summer dinner celebration, as well as support future projects at camp. You can find envelopes for donations in the Camp Store.

## If you need anything...

Just ask and we will do our best to accommodate your request as soon as we can to make your stay as pleasurable as possible.



# Health & Safety Tips and Guidelines

## Healthcare

Berkeley Tuolumne Camp employs medical staff to assist with general first aid, and many of our staff are CPR/First Aid certified. Although families are expected to handle their own general medical needs, our medical staff are available 24/7 if you need to speak with a medical professional. In the unfortunate event that an emergency occurs, please know that camp is 45 minutes from paramedic response and the closest hospital is Sonoma Regional Medical Center, an hour drive from camp.

Our camp's health hut has limited capacity to keep campers in extended isolation. In our experience, campers with medical conditions feel more comfortable recuperating at home. Camp fees will be refunded on a pro-rated basis when campers must return home early for medical care.

## Additional Health and Safety Protocols

The health and safety of your family is our primary concern. Please inform us of any food, drug, or environmental allergies before arriving at camp. It is the parent or guardian's responsibility to provide accident and health insurance. The City of Berkeley does not provide coverage for camp participants.

## Communicable Diseases, Fractures, Breaks, and Stitches

Campers with communicable diseases will not be allowed to attend camp until they are free of the disease, or until he/she/they are no longer contagious, as determined by a doctor. Campers with fractures, breaks, or stitches must have permission from their physicians to attend camp. Doctor's Notes must accompany campers or be submitted to the Camp office before arrival.

## Head Lice

Head lice can become an issue anytime large groups of campers gather. It is not indicative of poor hygiene and anyone can get them. Because lice are easily transmitted and require several steps to eliminate, we cannot allow campers to remain at camp who are found to have nits or head lice. To help ensure campers will have a positive experience at camp, it is your responsibility to check and, if necessary, treat for nits or head lice the week before camp begins.

## Camp Hygiene Standards

We encourage our campers to be clean! Before every meal, campers must wash their hands, and hygiene is reinforced throughout the camp experience. Your pre-camp support of this concept is appreciated. Bathrooms are inspected and sanitized each day by a member of our maintenance staff.

**GIARDIA** is a microscopic organism that is commonly found in small, local streams. Giardia can cause illness and diarrhea, so be careful not to swallow any water when you swim.

- **DO NOT FEED WILDLIFE.** Please DO NOT endanger our wildlife or the safety of you or your family by feeding animals.
- **BLACK BEARS.** If you see a bear, please report it to the Camp Manager so we can take proper precautions. If a bear comes close to you, do not run. Stand still, make yourself appear as large as possible (hold up your arms) and make loud noises. These bears are not aggressive and are not known to attack humans unless aggressively provoked (and documented cases of this are incredibly rare).
- **DO NOT KEEP FOOD IN YOUR TENT.** Use the metal bear boxes located along the paths in camp. If you have an item that needs to be refrigerated, let the staff know, and we may be able to store it for you.
- **RATTLESNAKES.** Rattlesnakes are not known to attack or bite people unless they are aggressively provoked or stepped on. If you see one, please report it to the Camp Manager or a Maintenance Staff as soon as possible so that we may take the necessary precautions.
- **HIKING TRAILS.** Hiking can be dangerous and can have uneven terrain. Try to have a partner with you and if this is not possible, make sure to tell someone exactly where you are going and how long you think you'll be gone. Always wear appropriate footwear for hiking (no flip flops or sandals), and take the appropriate safety measures whenever possible.
- **DO NOT RIDE BIKES OR SKATEBOARDS** within camp. There are many roads to ride bikes on outside camp, so please help us keep the dust and collisions down.
- **NO SMOKING AT CAMP.** Smoking is not allowed on camp property.
- **DRINK ENOUGH WATER.** Make sure you drink enough water to keep yourself hydrated. Bring water with you while hiking and focus on keeping cool in the shade, taking breaks, and if needed hike during cooler times of the day.
- **We do not currently have charge stations** for electric vehicles although they are coming soon in the fall. If you need to charge your vehicle, ask us and we will find you an appropriate spot to do so in our temporary parking lot.
- **Parking** in the ADA lot is for people with disabilities except during check-in. We ask that you move your car to the permanent lot by staff housing after moved in. Please do not park at the back of our dining hall blocking our kitchen doors in order for us to load our trash into trucks and to receive food deliveries.

# Health & Safety Tips and Guidelines & Camp Store

## Posted Rules & Signage at Camp

We ask that you follow all posted rules and camp guidelines while at camp. If you have questions about whether an activity is acceptable, please check with Tuolumne Camp Staff. To ensure the safety and enjoyment of all our campers, the following items are not allowed at camp:

- Pets (for service animals, please contact the Recreation Office before your stay to assure we can provide adequate accommodations)
- Firearms
- Fireworks
- Candles
- Kerosene lanterns or white gas
- Illegal substances
- Bug-Zappers



## Lifeguards

We have lifeguards on duty at the swimming hole during swim hours, from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM and 2:30-6:00 PM daily.

**Note that swim hours are subject to change.** When lifeguards are not present, swimming is not allowed. Also, when lifeguards are not present, please do not allow your children to play by the river.

## Valuables/Lost and Found

There are a number of locations for lost and found in camp. If you lose an item in the Dining Hall, it will be placed above the desk at the Dining Hall entrance. Bathroom and shower found items are placed in a box outside the maintenance shed. Any valuable item can be turned in to the office, as these will be stored for safe keeping. All other items will be put in the lost and found box outside the office or on the children's beach. We generally keep lost and found items for two weeks and then donate all items to charity.

Be careful leaving valuables in your cabin, as you cannot lock it. Also, we do not recommend charging cell phones, cameras, and the like in public bathrooms and laundry facilities. Though it is unusual, valuables can be a temptation for people.

## Tuolumne Camp Store

Campers can set up a store account at the Camp Store on CivicRec and purchase treats like candy bars and ice cream. We also carry essentials such as sunscreen, and bug spray. We only accept card and apple/google pay payments.

### Volunteer in the store

If you are interested in volunteering at the store, check with the store supervisor when you arrive at camp and sign up to be a store assistant. Children must be at least 5 years of age.

# Packing List

Below is a list of recommended items you may want to bring to help make you and your families stay at camp more comfortable. Items highlighted in bold are strongly recommended. *\*Please contact the Camps Office if you have special dietary needs, or require refrigeration of food items for medical purposes.*

## Tuolumne Family Camp Packing Checklist

### Clothing/apparel

- Face Masks for each day of the camp session recommended
- Jeans
- T- Shirts
- Long night shirts
- Lots of Socks!
- Underwear
- Warm pajamas
- Leggings / Thermal Underwear
- Sweatshirts
- Warm Jacket
- Rain Jacket / Pants
- Shorts
- Belt
- Hat
- Bathing Suit
- Sunglasses
- Tank tops
- Sundresses
- Costumes / silly clothes/ nice outfit for fancy dinner

### Babies

- Portable Crib
- Sheets and blanket
- Books
- Mosquito net for crib
- Bottles/sippy cup
- Bib
- Spoon/fork
- Pacifiers
- Baby backpack
- Warm PJ's
- 3 changes of clothes per day
- 6 diapers a day
- Baby wipes
- Plastic bag
- 1 swim diaper a day.

### Shoes

- Closed-toe shoes (required)
- Sneakers / Athletic Shoes
- Flip flops or Sandals (For the tent and showers)
- Water Shoes

### Kids

- Games
- Life Jacket
- Books

### For the tent

- Warm Sleeping Bag
- Extra Blanket(s)
- Pillow(s)
- Flashlight / Headlamp
- Extra Batteries
- Twin Sheet
- Book(s)
- Playing Cards
- Games
- Magazines
- Tapestries
- Folding chairs

### Other items

- Water Bottle (required)
- Light Day Pack (backpack)
- Beach Towel
- Camera
- Guitar / Musical Instrument
- Self-Addressed stamped envelopes
- Pens or pencils
- Sketch Pad, Books
- **White T-Shirt or article of clothing for Tie-Dye**

### Toiletries

- Medicines (turn in to Camp Staff at Check-In)
- Labeled Toiletry case
- Feminine Supplies
- Towels
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Toothpaste/brush
- Chap Stick/Lip Balm
- Sun Screen
- Wash cloth
- Bug Spray
- Eyeglasses / Contacts
- Contact Solution
- Face cleanser/wash
- Liquid soap
- Comb
- Moisturizer
- Lotion
- Razor
- Band-Aids

\*\*It can get quite cold at night, so bring warm clothing and sleeping bags. Check the weather for Tuolumne before your arrival, and dress accordingly. For weather information, call the Berkeley Tuolumne Camp office: 530-659-7506

### DO NOT BRING

- Drugs, or tobacco products
- Matches or Lighters
- Pocket knives or weapons of any type
- Animals
- Expensive make-up or clothing
- Fireworks
- Electronics, including iPods, radios, e-readers and video recorders