

PARENT/CAREGIVER MANUAL

20
26





Table of Contents

01	Welcome Message
02	About Christian Berets
03	Summer Camp
04	Activities
05	Registration Information
07	Payment and Deposit
08	Cancellation Policy
09	Ready, Set, Camp! Packing Info
11	Prohibited and Regulated Items
13	Notification of Illness or Injury
14	Transportation
16	Partnering Together for a Great Camp Experience



01

Welcome Message



**Kevin
Van Donselaar**
Executive Director, CEO

Thank you for your confidence in Christian Berets' Camps

We believe every person is wonderfully created and deeply loved by God. Our commitment is to provide a safe and joyful place where campers with special needs can participate in new adventures, build meaningful friendships, and grow in their confidence and faith.

Each camp session is designed to accommodate the unique abilities of all, in a fully *ADA compliant facility. Our trained staff provides a variety of well-supervised indoor and outdoor activities which allow campers to discover and enjoy new things.

*ADA = Americans with Disabilities Act

We look forward to providing an unforgettable experience for your camper(s). Thank you for trusting us with their care.

02

About Christian Berets

Our Mission

Motivated by compassion and love, Christian Berets reaches out and cares for those with special needs, by sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ through camping, retreats, and a variety of activities.



Our Vision

Our passion is to care for and serve people with special needs.

We are dedicated to helping our guests enjoy the camping experience, allowing them to discover and participate in new adventures.

We promote physical wellness, foster social interaction, and teach wholesome values based on Biblical principles.

Our guests enjoy building friendships with a caring staff and other campers.

Together, they experience indoor and outdoor activities that encourage and engage them.



History

Since 1970, God has faithfully guided the ministry of Christian Berets, as *Special Forces for Special Needs*. We provide summer camps for youth and adults with different abilities at our beautiful 46-acre facility located in Mi-Wuk Village, California.

03

Summer Camp

We host exciting Summer Camps during the months of June and July. Campers experience 5 days and 4 nights in a setting that connects them with the beautiful outdoors of the Sierra-Nevada mountains, while providing some comforts of home; delicious food, comfy sleeping areas (dorm-style rooms with bunk beds) and quick access to sinks, showers, and toilets for each dorm room. The main lodge and sleeping areas are all on one level for steady walking, and ease of use with wheelchairs or walkers (ADA compliant).

Every week is carefully designed to meet the specific needs of our campers. We promote physical wellness, foster social interaction, and teach wholesome values. Our campers enjoy building friendships with our caring staff, attending lively chapels, eating good food, plus getting to know and spend time with other campers. Together, they experience indoor and outdoor activities that encourage and engage them in positive ways!

2026 Camp Sessions

- Session 1: June 8 - June 12
- Session 2: June 15 - June 19
- Session 3: June 22 - June 26
- Session 4: July 6 - 10
- Session 5: July 13 - July 17
Youth/Young Adult (Ages 10-20)
- Session 6: July 20 - July 24



04

Activities



Camp is designed to match the abilities of all campers in a safe environment and provide a well supervised camping experience that allows them to discover and enjoy new things within the scope of their abilities and interests.

Nature hikes, picnics, roasting marshmallows, singing around the campfire, putt putt golf, razor rides, puppets, role playing with costumes, skits, crafts, drawing, painting, chalk talks. Camp visitors: forest rangers, fire trucks, therapy dogs, and fun photo moments sitting on motorcycles

Group activities include archery, ping-pong, basketball on our new Sports Court (adjustable hoops), bocce ball, pickle ball, horseshoes, water games, whiffle ball, foosball, volleyball, frisbee toss, shuffle board, hiking, and more! Adaptive activities focus on the individual's unique abilities and skill sets



05

Registration Information

Camper Eligibility Requirements

Christian Berets offers a 5-day and 4-nights camp experience for youth and adults ages 10 and up (no upper age limit) and welcomes campers of all abilities with special needs. A charter bus is provided to transport campers and staff on Monday mornings from Modesto, California, to the camp in Mi-Wuk Village (15 miles east of Sonora) and to return the campers and staff to the same location in Modesto on Friday afternoons. Transportation expenses are included in the registration price of camp.

To help ensure a successful camp experience, campers should be able to participate in an overnight setting away from home. If there is any uncertainty, a parent or caregiver must remain available for prompt pick-up should the camper need additional support.

A completed CampDoc Profile is required for all campers. This includes emergency contact information, health history, a required medical form that has current physical and medical status completed by their physician.

All medications and vitamins/supplements must be current and properly documented in the camper's CampDoc Profile. Please refer to the Medication Policy on page 11 for additional details.

Registrations must be completed within 30 days, including submission of all required CampDoc forms. If a camper's CampDoc Profile and required documentation are not fully completed within this timeframe, the registration may be deactivated. Families are welcome to re-register for a future session once all requirements can be met and provided there is still space available. Otherwise, the camper will be placed on a waitlist.



06

Registration Information (continued)

We understand that scheduling a doctor's appointment for a camper's physical exam and medical release form to be completed may take additional time. For this reason, some flexibility is allowed for the medical form requirement. We ask that parents and caregivers communicate with us about any appointment delays.

All medical forms must be submitted and approved prior to the start of the camp session. Communication with the Christian Berets' office staff (phone, text, email) is key to keeping your camper's registration active.

How to Register

Registration begins in early February (the exact date is communicated on the website and in the monthly newsletter). To register for camp, please visit our website and click on the "Summer Camp" tab. From there, you will find the link to begin the online registration process.

Step-by-step:

- **Go to our website www.christianberets.org.**
- Click on the "Summer Camp" tab
- Select the registration link
- Create a personal CampDoc Profile account for the camper
- Or, log into an existing CampDoc account from previous years
- Complete all required camper information and upload forms
- Submit your registration through CampDoc (this is the only option to register)**

Please complete all required forms as soon as possible to reserve your camper's spot in a specific session. If the camper Profile is incomplete at the time of staff review, the camper will be moved to a waitlist.

****If you need assistance creating a CampDoc Profile account or with using the account, please contact the CampDoc support team at (734) 619-8300 ext. 2, Monday–Friday, 5:00 AM to 2:00 PM (Pacific Time Zone).**



07

Payment & Deposit

For families who are self-pay, a \$400 deposit is required to reserve your camper's spot. The remaining balance must be paid in full prior to the start of the camp session. Payments may be made by mailing a check to the office (*see address below) or by calling the office to pay by credit card. There are no additional fees for credit card payments when you call the office directly. CampDoc only takes Discover Card and fees will apply.

Regional Center and Self-Determination Funding

Christian Berets is a vendored provider with the Regional Center system. Campers may qualify for recreational services through their Regional Center or through the Self-Determination Program.

Parents or guardians are encouraged to contact the camper's case manager/service coordinator to explore eligibility and request funding for camp. It is the responsibility of the parent, caregiver, or participant to notify their Regional Center Service Coordinator and secure an authorized Purchase of Service (POS) prior to the start of the camp session. All funding must be approved and set up prior to attending camp.

If you have questions or need assistance with this process, you may contact the Christian Berets' office (209-524-7993). Please note that any portion of camp fees not covered by the Regional Center or Self-Determination Program remains the responsibility of the parent, guardian, or caregiver.

Financial Assistance

We are committed to making the camp experience as accessible as possible for all campers who want to attend. For those who do not receive funding through Regional Centers or do not have other resources available, you can request financial assistance for a partial scholarship from Christian Berets.

For those requesting assistance, you are asked to notify the Christian Berets' office** as soon as you register your camper on CampDoc for a session.

Office address: 5779 Stoddard Rd, Modesto, CA 95356

**** 209-524-7993 or email: Office@ChristianBerets.org**





08

Cancellation Policy

Cancellation Policy

We understand that plans can change due to unexpected events such as illness. We kindly ask that you notify us as soon as possible if your camper is unable to attend the summer session they are registered for. Early communication allows us to offer the camp experience to another guest who is on the waitlist.

If a registered camper does not attend and we have not been notified in advance, it is taken very seriously, and a cancellation fee may be applied (see details below). Each camp session is carefully planned and staffed for the specific needs of the campers who will attend that week. Late cancellations may prevent others from participating.

Cancellations on or before March 31st will not incur a cancellation fee. **Any cancelled registration after March 31st, will be reviewed by the Executive Director and subject to a \$400 cancellation fee due to increased costs for staff already hired.**



09

Ready, Set, Camp! “What to Pack” List

- ☐ 6 Pairs of Socks (socks should be worn majority of the time)
- ☐ Flip Flops or water shoes (for water games & showers)
- ☐ 5 Underwear/Diapers (+ more if incontinence is an issue)
- ☐ 1 Swimsuit (if desired for water day; no bikinis or speedos)
- ☐ 1 Beach Towel (for water day)
- ☐ 2–3 Pajamas or clothing specifically for sleeping
- ☐ 1 Hat and/or Sunglasses (to protect eyes and face from sun)
- ☐ 1 Warm Jacket/Hoodie (temperatures can cool significantly)
- ☐ 5 T-Shirts (no tank tops please; older shirts preferred)
- ☐ 1 Nice set of clothes for *Family & Friends Night* (optional)
- ☐ 2 Pairs of Jeans, long pants, or sweat pants
- ☐ 5 Pairs of Shorts (daytime temperatures may be very warm)
- ☐ 1 Bible, Notebook, and Pen

Toiletry Items (please pack travel-sizes if available):

- ☐ Soap/Body Wash & Shampoo (Conditioner optional)
- ☐ Deodorant
- ☐ Toothbrush & Toothpaste
- ☐ Shaving Supplies (disposable razor, shaving cream)
- ☐ Comb /Hairbrush (hair ties/clips as needed)
- ☐ Feminine Hygiene Products (as needed)
- ☐ Sunscreen

😊 Fun Fact: All campers will receive a camp T-shirt ordered specifically for them and a framed camp photo wearing that T-shirt!

10

Ready, Set, Camp! Packing Guidelines

1) Please limit your packing to:

- One large suitcase
- One large bag to hold the camper's pillow and sleeping bag, or sheets and blanket. We strongly suggest using a heavy duty garbage bag for easy carrying and to keep it clean during transportation in the bus cargo area).
- One light-weight, carry-on hand-bag, or backpack is allowed on the bus with the camper (optional)
- One stuffed animal or personal comfort item (i.e.-doll, blanket)

2) Label Wheelchairs with name on heavy duty tape that can be seen on arm or outside back of chair.

3) Label Everything!

- Tag all clothing and towels with marking tape or use waterproof ink to label them. Identify camper's name at the back neckline of shirts, on the waist of pants, and at the corners of towels, washcloths, and blankets.
- Toiletries bag and all items should be marked with waterproof ink.
- Label the outside of camper sleeping bag/bedding.
- Label the outside of camper suitcase.

4) Pack comfortable and inexpensive clothing.

- Campers may want to bring one nice outfit for the *Friends & Family Talent Show Night* on Thursday evening.

5) Please do not bring cash.

- No spending money is needed. Everything is provided.

11

Prohibited and Regulated Items

Our Commitment

To provide a safe and inclusive environment for all campers and staff, the camp has established the following policies regarding prohibited and regulated items. These policies are designed to promote best practices for safety, health, and a positive experience for all.

Campers and staff may not bring or use: Alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco, nicotine products, vaping devices, or e-cigarettes

Medication Policies:

All medications (prescription and over-the-counter) must be clearly labeled in original packaging and checked in with the medical staff. Pharmacy bubble or blister packs preferred. Please let the staff know if refrigeration is required for any medications or supplements.

Medications/supplements brought to camp must match those listed in the camper's CampDoc Profile. **If medications/supplements/diet requirements have changed after registration, parents or caregivers must update CampDoc before June 1st or notify the office of any changes after June 1st.**

Medications and supplements will be administered by a camp nurse according to prescribed directions. Failure to provide accurate and up-to-date medication details, prior to arriving for camp check-in, may delay the process for all. Please make every effort to prioritize compliance with these requests.

👉 **Any prohibited substances will be confiscated and most likely result in dismissal from camp.**

12

Prohibited and Regulated Items (continued)

Personal Equipment & Electronics: Campers may bring limited personal items; see the “What to Pack” list. Campers are discouraged from bringing sports equipment and electronics so the items will not get lost or possibly broken. The Wi-Fi at camp is restricted and not available to campers. We encourage connection with other campers and staff. If a camper brings their phone to camp, they will be allowed to use it only during the afternoon rest time to quietly play games or watch movies that have been previously downloaded.

Camp is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal items. Please know that the camp or main office in Modesto cannot provide long-term storage for lost and found items. These items will be held for a period of two weeks following a camp session. Items can be picked up, or can be mailed at the parent or caregiver’s expense. Parent or caregiver should call the office (209) 524-7993 to inquire about a lost item and/or to make arrangements for pick-up or shipping.

Vehicles: Campers are not permitted to have or use vehicles at camp.

Animals: Campers are not permitted to bring animals to camp. Only animals that are part of authorized camp programs (i.e. - therapy and rescue dogs) are allowed on site and are managed by trained staff for the safety of all.

Weapons: Weapons of any description are strictly prohibited, including: Firearms, knives, fireworks, or explosives of any kind

👉 **Possession of any type of weapon will result in immediate dismissal from camp and require parent/caregiver to provide that transportation**

Search Policy

Camp reserves the right to inspect camper belongings if there is reasonable concern about safety or possession of any prohibited items.

13

Notice of Illness or Injury

Camp administration will make reasonable efforts to notify the parent/guardian or designated group care home representative by phone and/or email in the following situations:

Illness

- Fever of 101.4°F (38°C) or higher
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Symptoms suggestive of communicable illness
- Persistent or escalating pain
- Any condition requiring early dismissal from camp
- Any illness deemed significant by camp staff

Injury

- Head injury of any kind
- Suspected sprain, fracture, or dislocation
- Lacerations that may require sutures
- Injury involving significant swelling, bruising, or limited mobility
- Repeated or unresolved complaints of pain
- Any injury requiring medical evaluation beyond basic first aid

Medical Events

- Administration of emergency medication (including but not limited to epinephrine, seizure rescue medication, or other emergency interventions)
- Allergic reactions beyond mild, localized symptoms
- Seizure activity outside of documented baseline presentation
- Any change in medical status requiring monitoring or medical consultation

Camp staff reserve the right to notify parents/guardians/caregivers of any incident deemed medically significant, even if not specifically listed above.

14

Transportation

Drop-Off and Pick-Up Instructions

Bus Stop Location: Life Connection Church
1520 Rose Avenue, Modesto, CA 95355
(Use parking lot entrance located on Rockford Avenue)

Monday Morning – Campers arrive in Modesto between 8:15am - 8:30am

Friday Pick-Up - Parents/Caregivers Must Arrive by 2:30pm

Important Details for Campers Riding the Bus:

- All Campers **MUST** be accompanied by a parent or their caregiver throughout the entire check-in process. Campers are the responsibility of their parent or caregiver until they have completed the check-in process (including meeting with a nurse) and until the camper is assigned to a counselor or camp staff person for the bus ride to camp.
- Please call or text the office phone (209) 524-7993 if you will be late for any reason.
- If your camper shows any signs of illness, please keep them home! Call the office as soon as possible to communicate camper's name and status.
- If you miss the bus, call or text the office. We can provide directions to the camp.
- We are unable to issue a refund for any session missed due to transportation issues.

CHECK-IN PROCESS Monday Morning:

Station 1 – Start here to receive a name tag for your camper and connect with a counselor.

Station 2 – A counselor/staff person will accompany you and your camper to where their luggage will be counted and tagged according to their room assignment. Please label all luggage items prior to arrival with camper's name (first and last).

Station 3 – Nurses' check-in is located in the church gym. Medications and supplements will be accounted for and reviewed for necessary labeling. You must stay with your camper until they are finished at Station 3. ALL campers must meet with a nurse for a visual, well-being check, even if they do not have any medications or supplements to check-in.

Counselors will take campers to use the bathroom before the bus leaves for camp (bus ride is approximately 1 ½ to 2 hours).

CHECK-OUT PROCESS Friday - Parents/Caregivers Must Arrive by 2:30pm

- Buses will arrive at Life Connection Church at approximately 2:30pm (depending on traffic).
Please be in the gym when your camper(s) arrive. Bathrooms are available.
- *Nurses will be in the gym to sign out camper medications and/or supplements*.
*Please make this a priority when you arrive on Friday to help the process move quickly for all.
- Counselors or camp staff will bring ALL campers to the gym for checkout.

Please do not pick up your camper(s) at the curb. It is for their safety that you wait for them to be brought to the gym for check-out. Thank you.



15

Transportation Safety Information

Christian Berets uses **Storer Coachways** for reliable, safe, and comfortable transportation to and from camp for summer sessions in June and July. You can learn more about this industry expert at: StorerCoachways.com

Prior to departure, all campers and staff riding the bus will receive safety instructions that include, but are not limited to the following:

- Location and use of all emergency exits
- Location and use of fire extinguishers
- Location of the First Aid kit
- Notice of the mandated requirement that passengers will remain seated at all times while the bus is in motion.

Title 13 CCR 1217(e): A vehicle shall not be put in motion until all passengers are seated, and all passengers must remain seated while the vehicle is in motion.

Storer Coachways Transport has partnered with Christian Berets for many years and is equipped to provide lifts and spaces to accommodate those who need to remain in their wheelchairs.



16

Partnering Together for a Great Camp Experience

Friends and Family Talent Night happens every Thursday evening during summer camp sessions! Just as the name implies, friends and family of the campers attending a specific session, are invited to join in the fun for an evening at camp.

Guests are welcome to arrive as early as 5:00 PM to walk around and explore the campgrounds. Dinner will be served around 5:30–6:00 PM, followed by a fun evening of praise and worship, a camper talent show, and we'll wrap things up with a special awards ceremony.

An email reminder is sent to parents/caregivers in plenty of time for each one to RSVP no later than Tuesday by 12:00PM (of the camp session their camper is attending). Each guest can reply by email, call or text (209) 524-7993 with their camper's name, how many people will be coming to the event night, and if they want to have dinner with their camper.

Dinner is \$5 per person (10 and under eat free). Guests are asked to bring exact cash or a check payable to: Christian Berets, Inc.

Camp address is: 24884 Hwy 108, Mi-Wuk Village, CA 95346



Christian Berets' Staff going above and beyond for you and your camper:

At the bus stop, when you are introduced to your camper's counselor, you can provide your cell phone number directly to them and request that they send daily pictures of your camper experiencing and enjoying their time at camp! 😊