

Camp ALWAYS, now in its eleventh year, received an Adoption Excellence Award from the Federal Dept. of Health and Human Services and an award from the California State Association of Counties for collaborative efforts in providing outstanding support for adoptive families!

Registration fee includes:

- Four nights' lodging in cabins and all meals from dinner on Monday, July 9th to breakfast on Friday, July 13th
- Age-based children's activities groups
- Swimming pool
- Fun activities, including volleyball, basketball, Alpine Tower, ropes challenge course, archery, etc.
- Arts and crafts
- Campfires
- Educational workshops for parents
- Special family-friendly evening events
- A nice balance of children's programs, adult respite and family fun
- Fellowship with other adoptive families

Here's what parents said about camp last year:

"We loved it, and our kids loved it."

"We connect with other families with similar issues, concerns and experiences."

"I feel more confident as a dad, closer as a family and better prepared for future challenges."

"One of the few times a year when our family does not need to explain how they are different from everybody else. We don't feel like we stick out, we feel like we belong."

**Download registration form at www.aask.org
(available by April 2).**

For questions or assistance,
email camp@aask.org
or call (888) 680-7349 x 10.

Priority Registration deadline is April 23.
(See section inside on *Families Eligible to Attend*.)



8201 Edgewater Drive, Suite 103
Oakland, California 94621-2021

Camp ALWAYS info inside!



www.aask.org



Promoting Permanency for Foster Youth since 1973

Adoption, Foster Care and Support

Join Us For the Eleventh Season
of
CAMP ALWAYS!

July 9-13, 2012

Don't be left out!
Five days of fun, education and
fellowship await you at Camp ALWAYS,
award-winning adoptive family camp
beneath tall pines in the Sierras.



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*Camp ALWAYS is facilitated by AASK
and sponsored by generous Foundation grants
along with private donations.*

www.aask.org

AASK (ADOPT A SPECIAL KID)

AASK will be handling Camp ALWAYS registration, as well as facilitating and hosting our award-winning adoptive family camp for you. A brief introduction for families who may not be familiar with us:

AASK has promoted permanency for foster youth since 1973, placing thousands of children with loving families. A fully state-licensed foster and adoption agency, we identify and train competent, caring foster and adoptive parents, provide education and support services, and nurture stable homes. Based in Oakland, AASK serves families in 21 Northern California counties and works to place children from all over the state. AASK also offers support groups and scholarships, and is especially pleased to provide this adoptive camp experience. We believe it leaves a lasting impression on all participants.

CAMP ALWAYS PROGRAM

Camp ALWAYS has four goals for families who are adopting or have adopted from foster care. All in a beautiful nature setting, camp provides:

- Education
- Respite
- Community-building
- Recreation

Camp is led by a combination of AASK staff and trained counselors from the resident camp. All meals and maintenance tasks are taken care of by camp staff. While adults attend workshops or enjoy respite time, children have fun in activity groups with others of similar age. At the end of camp, we believe your skills will be enhanced and your family will leave feeling refreshed, while having made connections with other adoptive families.

FAMILIES ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND

Eligible families are those that have at least one child who was previously in foster care (a dependent of the juvenile court) in California, and is now at the adoptive placement stage or beyond. Registration opens for all eligible families on April 2, with priority given until April 23rd to those who adopted through AASK or our partner counties, which include Alameda, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Stanislaus.



CAMP ALWAYS

CAMP ALWAYS FAMILIES

Camp ALWAYS campers are very diverse. You may be sharing a cabin with families who are very different from your own: married couples; single parent families; families with two dads or two moms; large families; families blended with birth, adopted and foster children; families with children of a different race or culture than their parents. Everyone must be respectful of all families.

THE CAMP LOCATION

Camp ALWAYS utilizes the facilities at Grizzly Creek Ranch near Portola, California. Located 130 miles east of Sacramento and 40 miles west of Reno, Grizzly Creek Ranch is about a four-hour drive from the San Francisco Bay Area. With developed camp facilities covering 20 acres of the 1,500-acre property, the surrounding forest, bluffs, streams and meadows ensure that the camp program is free of distractions from the outside world. Some facts about the Camp ALWAYS/Grizzly Creek Ranch camping experience:

- Days can get hot but nights are cool. Temperatures range from 80's to 40's.
- You will enjoy beautiful tall pines and Grizzly Lake, which is stocked with Rainbow Trout for fishing.
- Campers sleep in heated and air conditioned cabins. Single beds (including bunk beds) with mattresses, electrical outlets and light are provided. Cabins include restroom with toilet and sink.
- Shower facilities are located in a separate building nearby.
- There are a limited number of private, rustic teepee dwellings. However, in most cases, families will be sharing large cabins with other families.
- Family and buffet-style meals are served in dining hall
- Families should dress for a rustic, natural environment.
- Camp is fairly flat and is also fully accessible for children and adults with disabilities.

Amenities:

- ◇ Swimming pool with lifeguard
- ◇ Fun activities, such as basketball, volleyball, archery, challenge course, Alpine Tower, kayaking and fishing
- ◇ Craft center
- ◇ Campfire areas with performance stage
- ◇ Dining Hall

YOUR CAMPING EXPERIENCE

Camp activities, held in Grizzly Creek Ranch's beautiful setting, make for a fun and rewarding week. However, the camp experience may not be right for every family. Everyone who attends should be accepting of a diverse range of families, feel okay about a rustic environment, children getting dirty, and sharing cabins with other families.



COST TO FAMILIES

This fun and meaningful week at Camp ALWAYS is subsidized by generous Foundation grants and private donations.

Registration fee for parents and children will be on a sliding scale based on income, ranging from \$82.50 to \$300 per person ages 3 and over (and half the fee per person ages 0-2). Fee chart will accompany registration form.

Join us at CAMP ALWAYS (A Life With Adoption Yields Success!)

Questions?
Call (888) 680-7349 x 10
or email camp@aask.org
**Registration form available
by April 2 at www.aask.org**

