

**WE WELCOME FAMILIES TO AWARD-WINNING CAMP ALWAYS!!!!
ADOPTIVE FAMILY CAMP!!! JULY 5-9, 2010!**

The Value of Camp

Camping families receive a tremendous value. Although we are only charging \$50 per family member, Camp costs AASK \$420 for the four nights for each camper. This pays for staff, guest speakers and supplies for educational workshops, and for items such as food and lodging, camp amenities, special supplies, insurance and activities. Our costs are the same whether or not a slot is used or if a family leaves after a night or two. This is why we must ask all campers to be respectful of this opportunity by: (a) canceling with plenty of notice; (b) committing to staying for the entire camp period; and (c) otherwise communicating changes to AASK in a prompt manner.

Camp ALWAYS families

Camp ALWAYS campers are, as are adoptive families everywhere, very diverse. You may be camping next to 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. We can all learn from exposure to diversity. *All families need to be treated with respect.*

How To Register

Space fills up **quickly**. Families returning their registration materials **immediately** will have the best chance of being accommodated. To register, families need to complete and sign the enclosed registration form and mail it along with any required documentation and payment of **\$50 for each family member**, in a check, cashier's check or money order* payable to AASK. Families need to commit to attending the entire four nights. This will help us accommodate as many individuals as we can and provide the group with continuity from beginning to end. Please check school, work and other schedules before you register. Registration will be accepted by U.S. Mail only. Each family must mail their own materials. No hand delivery or multiple family registration/payment will be accepted.

**Note: We encourage you to send a cashier's check or money order. If we receive notification from our bank that your personal check is being returned for non-sufficient funds, the following will apply: (1) You will need to re-submit a money order or cashier's check which includes the total registration amount for your family plus a \$25 processing fee; and (2) You will be placed on the waiting list.*

What Will Happen Next

AASK will send verification of your status by email (or U.S. Mail if email address is not provided), either registered as a camper or placed on the waiting list. Campers will receive some forms to complete and more detailed information about what to bring and expect. We'll communicate with campers once or twice again as camp draws closer.

Waiting List

Demand may necessitate that a waiting list be established. If you are waitlisted and a space opens up for you, we will contact you by phone as soon as possible. Please note that all registration checks/money orders will be cashed and placed on reserve. Families on the waiting list who cannot be accommodated will be refunded their registration fees the week of July 12. For waitlisted families, only the \$25 processing fee for a returned non-sufficient funds check is not refundable.

Cancellation Policy

Please consider your commitment to attend carefully before you register. Check school schedules and vacation availability. Please notify the AASK Camp Coordinator at (888) 680-7349 x 14 ASAP if you have been confirmed as a camper and will be unable to attend—or, if you need to change the amount of individuals in your party who will be attending with corresponding payments/refund arrangements. We want to accommodate as many families as possible at camp and release your available slots to a waiting family. The farther ahead we know this information, the easier it will be to make changes or to register a waiting family: Due to families sharing cabins, we may need to revise cabin configurations to be sure appropriate sleeping arrangements are made for everyone. Please do not show up at camp with either fewer or more campers than are registered unless you have spoken with the Camp Coordinator first. Families on the waiting list should also let us know if they no longer wish to be considered for open spots. Registered families will only receive refunds if you notify AASK of your cancellation by June 4. The \$25 processing fee for a returned non-sufficient funds check is not refundable. Families still need to notify AASK if you cancel after June 4 so we can place waiting families.

We are looking forward to greeting your family at Camp ALWAYS!

CAMP ALWAYS **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Who Can Come?

Eligible families are those that have at least one child (age 0–21) at the adoptive placement stage or beyond, placed through AASK or Alameda, San Luis Obispo, or Stanislaus counties. All parents and children living in the home can attend—not all children have to be adoptively placed or finalized—just at least one.

Where is Camp ALWAYS/Campbell?

Camp is located in the Santa Cruz Mountains, three miles north of Boulder Creek on State Highway 9, less than a two hour drive from the San Francisco Bay Area.

Will We Have Our Own Cabin?

This camp is set up with shared cabins. Unless your family is very large, it is likely you will be sharing a large cabin with at least one other family.

My Spouse/Partner Can Only Come For One Night, Is That OK?

No. We receive several calls every year asking about a short stay for one family member. We request that all registered family members stay for the entire time. Why?:

- We have a limited amount of slots we want to make full use of. If a number of people leave early we will have wasted those spaces for the rest of the camp period.
- We pay for your slot whether it is used the whole time or not (see value of camp, page 2).
- We build a camp community by spending several days together and participating in all of the activities. Arriving late or leaving early is counter-productive to this.

Recommendations:

- Please don't sign up a family member with the knowledge that that person will arrive late or leave early.
- If one parent is thus unable to come, we encourage families to draft another adult to attend and help with the children if you feel it's needed. Also, please note that we have had many parents successfully come singly with their family. Families in your own or neighboring cabins are often willing to lend an extra hand with children.

We may make an exception to the above policy in only very limited circumstances—for example, a family filling a last-minute cancellation that may have to miss one night. Thanks for cooperating with us on this issue.

Do I Have To Attend the Parent Workshops?

Camp ALWAYS schedules three morning workshops for adults while children are in age-group activities. There are no other adult activities available during this time and the children make use of camp activity areas. Most importantly, providing education is one of the camp objectives and continued funding for camp is contingent on meeting these objectives. We expect all adults – other than age 18-21 youth - to attend all scheduled workshops.

Do I need to stay in camp for the entire session?

Campers should arrive between 2-5PM on Monday, July 5 and will leave on Friday, July 9 by noon. Most of the activities are camp-based. Please help us preserve the camp community and unity by adhering to scheduled activity choices, rather than going off-site. Campers wanting to enjoy other area vacation sites may want to plan to do so Monday morning on the way up or after departing camp on Friday.

I Camped Last Year—What Can I Expect this Year?

We are in a new camp this year – Camp Campbell. Along with familiar activities and facilities such as basketball and volleyball courts, craft cabin, dining hall and campfire areas with performance stage, Camp Campbell also has new offerings: archery, low-ropes and high-ropes challenge courses, climbing wall, mole hole run and a nature center. Unlike last year, most families will share large cabins with at least one other family. Many things at camp will remain the same: fun activities, including family-friendly evening events, arts and crafts; age-based kids' groups; parent workshops; day and evening adult free time and family time blocks.

Camp ALWAYS Adoption Camp Registration Form
Camp Dates: Monday, July 5 - Friday, July 9, 2010

To be fair to all families, we are accepting registration BY U.S. MAIL ONLY, with each family mailing their own materials. No hand delivery or multiple family registration/payment will be accepted. Mail to AASK Camp Coordinator, 8201 Edgewater Dr. #103, Oakland, CA, 94621. **For the best chance of being accommodated, mail complete registration packet as soon as possible**, along with cashier's check or money order* and required documentation. For your registration to be considered complete, the following three items must be included in full:

- 1) This completed four-page registration form.
- 2) Your registration fee of \$50 per family member in a check*, cashier's check or money order payable to AASK:
Number of campers (Adult plus Child/Youth): _____ x \$50/each = \$_____ enclosed.

**We will accept personal checks, but if we receive notification from our bank that your check is being returned for non-sufficient funds, the following will apply: (1) You will need to re-submit a money order or cashier's check for your family's total registration amount plus a non-refundable \$25 processing fee; and (2) You will be placed on the waiting list.*

- 3) At least one child (age 0-21) must be in adoptive placement or beyond for your family to qualify for camp. Please check either (a), (b), or (c) and follow instructions as noted:

a. _____ At least one of my children was placed through AASK: *No documentation is required.*

b. _____ At least one of my children was placed by Alameda, San Luis Obispo or Stanislaus counties AND my family has previously attended Camp ALWAYS or was waitlisted:
No documentation is required.

c. _____ At least one of my children was placed by Alameda, San Luis Obispo or Stanislaus counties and my family has NOT previously attended Camp ALWAYS:
The following documentation is required along with registration:
_____ Foster Placement Agreement for one child
AND
_____ Adoptive Placement Agreement (Form AD 907) for same child,
each signed by a representative of one of the above counties

For each camper listed, please *briefly* describe any special issues (dietary, mobility, etc.), if applicable. Registered campers will receive a lengthier survey later in which they will be asked for additional information. If none, please write none. Campers must live in the adoptive home. For special circumstances, please call the Camp Coordinator at 888-680-7349 ext. 14 prior to mailing registration.

How did you learn about Camp ALWAYS? _____

Our family would like to share a cabin with _____. (We will do our best to accommodate requests.)

If there is anything you'd like us to keep in mind when planning which families will be sharing cabins, please note: _____

Adult Campers:

Camper 1 Name: _____

Special issues (dietary, mobility, etc.): _____

Name: _____

Relationship to camper 1: _____

Special issues (dietary, mobility, etc.): _____

Mailing Address:

Street

_____ Email: _____

City, State, Zip

Home phone: _____ Daytime phone: _____

Work / Cell

Child/Youth Campers: (0-21 years):

Name: _____ Age _____ DOB: _____ M/F

Special issues (dietary, mobility, etc.): _____

Name: _____ Age _____ DOB: _____ M/F

Special issues (dietary, mobility, etc.): _____

Name: _____ Age _____ DOB: _____ M/F

Special issues (dietary, mobility, etc.): _____

Name: _____ Age _____ DOB: _____ M/F

Special issues (dietary, mobility, etc.): _____

Name: _____ Age _____ DOB: _____ M/F

Special issues (dietary, mobility, etc.): _____

Child/Youth Campers: (0-21 years) (continued):

Name: _____ Age _____ DOB: _____ M/F

Special issues (dietary, mobility, etc.): _____

Name: _____ Age _____ DOB: _____ M/F

Special issues (dietary, mobility, etc.): _____

Name: _____ Age _____ DOB: _____ M/F

Special issues (dietary, mobility, etc.): _____

Name: _____ Age _____ DOB: _____ M/F

Special issues (dietary, mobility, etc.): _____

Name: _____ Age _____ DOB: _____ M/F

Special issues (dietary, mobility, etc.): _____

- Registration form continues on page 4 -

All parents must sign agreeing to the following:

- We understand that should we successfully register for camp, space will be reserved for our family. We agree we will all show up to camp on Monday and will be committed to staying at camp for the entire four nights.
- We understand that all adults (other than 18-21 year olds assigned to a youth group) need to attend all scheduled workshop sessions.
- We understand all children and youth need to attend all sessions of their assigned groups.
- We understand that we need to advise the Camp Coordinator at AASK *as soon as possible* if for any reason we cannot attend camp. Families on the waiting list will need to be advised of open slots. Giving as much advance notice as possible is also critical due to families sharing cabins: The Camp Coordinator will not only need to fill available slots but also make sure appropriate sleeping arrangements are made for everyone.
- Our registration fee will be refunded only as follows:
 - * If we advise AASK of our cancellation by June 4, our registration fee will be refunded in full.
 - * If we advise AASK of our cancellation anytime from June 5 on, we will not receive any refund.
 - * If we cannot be accommodated from the waiting list, our registration fee will be refunded in full the week of July 12.
 - * Any \$25 processing fee for checks returned for non-sufficient funds will not be refunded.
- We understand we need to advise AASK if the number of campers in our party changes. Camp ALWAYS may not be able to accommodate additional campers in our families, other than those originally registered.
- We understand that our children must be supervised at all times by an adult. Other than when signed into a specific activity supervised by camp staff, our children's conduct and safety are our responsibilities.
- Camp ALWAYS has simple rules, which are designed to ensure that every camper has a safe and happy experience. Campers who interfere with other camper's peaceful enjoyment of the experience, who fail to adhere to the rules, or who create unsafe situations for children or adults, may be asked to leave camp and may not be invited to future camps.
- Camp ALWAYS/Campbell rules:
 - Smoking is permitted *only in one designated area*: parking area across bridge.
 - No space heaters, hot plates, coffee pots, or other small kitchen-related appliances may be used in cabins.
 - The camp speed limit is 5 MPH. Vehicles must be parked only in designated parking areas. Fire lanes must not be blocked. Driving into cabin areas is not allowed. (Accommodations will be made for loading/unloading.)
 - Passengers may not be transported in any vehicle not intended to carry passengers.
 - Camp boundaries and right of privacy of camp neighbors must be observed. Cabin quiet hours are from 10:00 PM to 8:00 AM.
 - Bikes should be left at home. Camp is compact and not conducive to bike-riding.
 - No swimming without lifeguard present.
 - No pets (other than working Guide Dogs), alcoholic beverages, non prescribed drugs, propane lanterns, water balloons or guns, motor driven bikes or scooters, firearms, ammunition, explosives, poisons, hand or power tools allowed.
 - Camping is allowed only in the existing cabins. Cabin furniture must be replaced in the original position, cabin swept and litter removed upon departure.

We the undersigned agree to abide by all rules/policies established for Camp ALWAYS. Further, we understand that failure to comply with rules will jeopardize our ability to remain at Camp and to attend in subsequent years.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____