



# Long Beach Unified School District

## Hi Hill at YMCA Camp Oakes

### Family Information Packet 2026 - 2027

5th Grade Outdoor Education

YMCA Camp Oakes

Big Bear City, CA



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Office of the Superintendent  
1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach, CA 90810  
(562) 997-8242

May 2026

Dear Elementary and TK-8 School Families:

I am pleased to inform you that as part of the Long Beach Unified School District's curriculum, all fifth-grade students will have an opportunity to participate in a week of outdoor education at Camp Oakes near Big Bear City, California, beginning in the fall of 2023. These field trips will continue a tradition that began in our district in April of 1948 with students attending Camp Hi-Hill each year. Unfortunately, however, in 2010, the camp program had to be closed. I am pleased our Board of Education approved revitalizing the outdoor education program utilizing the YMCA's Camp Oakes facility.

The outdoor education field trip logistics, including any bus arrangements, are handled and funded centrally. Families will be required to provide registration information needed to ensure arrangements are made appropriately for your student. Schools are scheduled to attend on different dates throughout the school year, so this [Hi Hill at YMCA Camp Oakes Handbook for Families](#) has been developed to ensure families are prepared and the visits are a positive experience for all students, teachers and staff. With your support, I am certain these week-long field trips in the mountains will continue to provide our fifth-grade students with meaningful experiences that enhance their knowledge of nature and science, while helping build social skills and positive self-esteem.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Outdoor Education Program Administrator, in the Expanded Learning Opportunities Programs Office.

Contact information is available at <https://www.lbschools.net/departments/elop/camp-hihill/camp-hihill-home>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill A. Baker".

Jill A. Baker, Ed.D  
Superintendent of Schools



## Hi Hill at YMCA Camp Oakes Field Trip Overview

### **PURPOSE**

The 5th grade field trip to Hi Hill at Camp Oakes is being implemented as part of the Long Beach Unified School District's commitment to giving youth an equitable opportunity to discover the world beyond their communities. This opportunity provides an opportunity for each 5th grade student to live and study outdoors for one school week. Research has suggested that outdoor learning is extremely beneficial in many ways. It can boost self - confidence, self - esteem, social skills, communication, motivation, physical skills, support positive attitude toward learning and increase one's ability to work cooperatively.

### **WHAT WILL STUDENTS LEARN**

Hi Hill at YMCA Camp Oakes provides a unique learning opportunity for children to connect and collaborate with peers from diverse backgrounds, helping them develop social and interpersonal skills that will benefit them both in school and throughout their lives. Living in the outdoor educational environment 24 hours a day, students will have opportunities to grow in understanding and develop feelings of purpose through real life situations. At Hi Hill at YMCA Camp Oakes, children develop new responsibilities while building respect for and appreciation of the friendships they share with classmates and teachers through meaningful experiences in the beauty and wonder of the outdoors. At camp, students learn firsthand science concepts including: basic landforms, plants and animals of the forest, geology, rocks and minerals, astronomy, botany, meteorology, water cycle and many other concepts through experiential learning opportunities. This field trip is a very important part of your child's learning experiences. Outdoor education takes students from the typical classroom to a different kind of classroom setting where students learn through first hand experiences. Outdoor learning is an exciting and engaging experience for students. As a result, students learn faster, understand better, and retain more of what they learn.

Hi Hill at YMCA Camp Oakes has many activities for students including but not limited to: archery, arts & crafts, fishing, team games, volleyball, nature exploration, hikes, canoeing, gaga ball, climbing tower, low ropes challenge course, observatory for stargazing, campfire programs with songs and skits and many other activities. These will allow students to expand their knowledge, challenge themselves and work together to learn in the great outdoors.



## Hi Hill at YMCA Camp Oakes General Information

### FACILITY LOCATION

The Long Beach Unified School District's outdoor education program is located at the Long Beach YMCA's Camp Oakes in the San Bernardino Mountains near Big Bear City. It is located on approximately 235 acres in the San Bernardino National Forest at an elevation of 7,200 feet. Camp Oakes is approximately 120 miles from Long Beach or 15 minutes from Big Bear City, CA.

### COST

Hi Hill at YMCA Camp Oakes is fully funded by the Long Beach Unified School District. **There is no cost to attend.** Families are responsible for providing appropriate clothing and bedding for their children. Families needing support for clothing or bedding should contact the LBUSD Outdoor Education Program Administrator or their school principal to discuss needs.

### TRANSPORTATION

The Long Beach Unified School District provides chartered bus transportation to and from Hi Hill at YMCA Camp Oakes at no cost. ***If for any reason a child is required to go home during the week at camp, the parent will be required to pick up the child from camp at their own expense.***

### CAMP ACCREDITATION

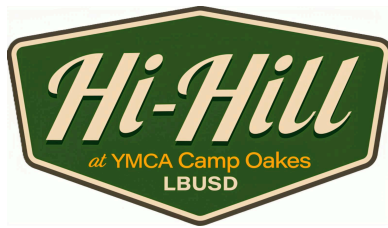
YMCA Camp Oakes is accredited by the American Camp Association which means it has been evaluated to comply with over 300 industry-established health and safety standards compiled by experts from many fields such as: risk management, child development, aquatics, and health care. The San Bernardino County Health Department and other state/county offices also inspect the camp as required.

### CABIN ASSIGNMENTS

Students' teachers will assign gender based cabin groups prior to departure. Teachers will do their best to include at least one friend to be in a student's cabin with them, but there is no guarantee that all friends will be together. Cabins will have students from other classrooms or LBUSD schools attending during the same week.

### CABIN SUPERVISION:

Cabin groups are supervised by adult counselors with ratios in accordance with American Camping Association requirements. All staff are selected for their ability to work with children and undergo extensive staff training prior to the students' week of outdoor education. The camp directing staff are dedicated professionals with years of experience working with children at camp.



### **CHILD ABUSE:**

All YMCA Camp Oakes and LBUSD staff are mandated reporters. LBUSD staff are mandated to report any suspected child abuse (including physical, emotional, or verbal abuse and/or neglect) to the appropriate authorities immediately.

### **HOMESICKNESS:**

Being away from home for a week can be a challenging experience for a child of any age. When children are away from home for the first time, they may experience homesickness. Prior to camp, please let your child know that you have confidence in their ability to cope with the new experiences. Focus on positive aspects of camp, their friends, activities they will enjoy, and how proud you will be of their success. Once at camp, the staff will apply the greatest homesickness cure known – keeping students busy and having fun. We encourage parents to write positive, supportive letters which allows your child to hear from you in a supportive manner. Remember, Camp Oakes has been a positive experience for thousands of children over the years, and we know it will be for your child as well.

### **PREPARING FOR CAMP**

Camp is an exciting chance for your child to build their self-esteem and further develop their interpersonal skills. They will increase their levels of independence and responsibility by taking care of themselves, making their bed and demonstrating responsibility for their belongings. At home, we encourage parents to help your child pack using the ***Pre-Camp Checklist for Students***. This method helps students become more responsible as they prepare for this exciting experience. Students may not pack food and/or candy. Please be sure you and your child pay attention to NOT bring the following items to Camp Oakes:

### **ITEMS NOT PERMITTED - DO NOT BRING!**

- Electronics of **ANY KIND**:
  - Cell phones or any other communication devices
  - Laptops, Tablets, iPod's, Earbuds, or Smart Watches
  - Hand-Held Game Devices
- Lighters or Fireworks
- Knives or Hatchets
- Firearms
- Tobacco Products
- Illegal Drugs
- Food Items
- Chewing gum or Candy
- Aerosol sprays

Any non-permitted items will be collected, marked with your child's name and kept by the staff until our return to school. Collected items will be returned, as appropriate, to the school staff or parent upon return from Camp. The LBUSD and/or the YMCA are not responsible for lost or damaged items during this process.



## Hi Hill at YMCA Camp Oakes Policies and Procedures

### **MEDICATIONS AT CAMP**

DO NOT pack any medication, including over the counter medicine, in your child's luggage.

**All medications (prescription & over-the-counter) must be submitted, with all required documentation, at least one week prior to departure to the school nurse the week before departure.**

The nurse will review all medications and reference online registration forms. If your child needs medication while at camp, each medication must have a "Medication at Camp" form completed by the student's physician. This includes over-the-counter medication. Prescription medication must be in a pharmacy bottle with your child's name on it, and the physician's instructions clearly labeled. All over-the-counter medication must be in the original container marked with your child's name. **NO MEDICATION (including vitamins) is kept in any cabin;** the camp nurse will administer all medication. Please provide 10 days worth of medication so that we are prepared for any potential situation that may arise (inclement weather, etc.) Please see your School Nurse for Medication at Camp forms and for any questions.

### **CELL PHONES/COMMUNICATIONS WITH STUDENTS**

All cell phones, tablets and smart watches must remain at home; they are not permitted at camp. Families are encouraged to communicate with letters to their child as outlined previously.

### **HOW TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOUR CHILD**

Families are welcome to send letters to their child while they are at camp. Please provide one or two positive letters to your child's teacher prior to our departure to camp. Students will receive these letters mid-week. Students appreciate mail; however, stay positive and supportive.

### **HEALTH CARE**

No sick students will be allowed to attend camp. If students do get sick, Camp Oakes has an on-site Health Cottage with a camp nurse. In case of illness, students will be housed in the Health Cottage for a reasonable period of time. If deemed necessary, parents/guardians will be contacted to pick up their child. If your child becomes ill prior to camp, the school nurse will make sure they are fit to attend a rigorous week in the mountains.

Students experiencing certain health conditions including but not limited to: fever of 100.4 degrees or higher, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, severe itching, have open wounds or lesions and/or lice (nits or live lice) will be excluded from attendance in order to protect the health of everyone.

If an emergency or a special need were to occur, emergency services are available in the City of Big Bear Lake. In the event of an injury while at camp, we will take all necessary measures to ensure



proper care, including - treatment by staff for minor injuries, calling parents/guardians for their instructions, calling local healthcare providers, or transporting individuals to a medical facility. Parents of students with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or greater will be contacted and may be excluded from camp.

It is very important to provide complete and accurate emergency contact information during the registration process. If you are traveling on vacation, please list an itinerary and phone numbers where you can be reached. In the event of an injury that requires medical attention, the YMCA Camp Oakes and/or LBUSD staff will attempt to contact you; however, in the event the guardian cannot be reached, permission is granted to the physician selected by the YMCA Camp Oakes and/or LBUSD staff to render medical treatment deemed necessary and appropriate by the physician.

### **INSURANCE**

As the parent or guardian, you are responsible for any medical costs incurred as a result of injury or illness while your child is at camp. Families without health insurance are encouraged to visit [www.CoveredCA.com](http://www.CoveredCA.com) while families desiring optional student accident insurance, at parents' expense, should refer to the LBUSD Guidelines for Parents and Students. Please understand, the school district has no insurance covering medical or hospital costs incurred by students and, therefore, any costs incurred for such treatment shall be the sole responsibility of the parent/guardian. Be sure to provide accurate information regarding your insurance coverage in the registration system.

### **LOST AND FOUND**

The camp experience is an opportunity for students to learn responsibility for their personal articles. Please discuss the topic of responsibility and caring for their belongings. LBUSD and the YMCA are not responsible for any lost or stolen items. **Do not send valuables** with your child.

Any lost items found by the camp staff members will be displayed throughout the week for campers to collect. Any items remaining or found after campers have left will be stored at camp for not less than 2 weeks. Reasonable attempts will be made to return lost and found items to the owner. Schools will be asked to assist in reuniting lost items with their owner, if however the lost and found items are not claimed within 2 weeks, they may be given to a local charity. **PLEASE MARK ALL ITEMS WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME.**

### **DISCIPLINE/BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS**

Students are required to follow all LBUSD, individual school and YMCA Camp Oakes expectations for behavior and safety aligned with Ed. Code 48900. To foster a greater sense of safety and security, students will participate in discussing and establishing cabin rules of behavior. LBUSD teachers and YMCA Camp Oakes staff will promote good behavior through modeling positive reinforcement and other developmentally appropriate techniques.

Camp specific rules will be shared with students upon arrival at camp. The most important rules are **1)**



**Stay Safe at all times, 2) Demonstrate Respect and 3) Have fun!** Camp guidelines supporting these rules include: - be with an adult and your assigned student buddy at all times, demonstrate respect for everyone, everywhere all of the time.

Challenging behaviors that do not meet behavioral expectations will be addressed through positive redirection and guided conflict resolution strategies that promote respectful interactions, effective communication, and healthy peer relationships. These approaches are designed to build children's self-esteem, strengthen social-emotional skills, and ensure that all students have a safe, supportive, and positive camp experience.

Students demonstrating problematic behavior will engage in the following steps:

**Student Conference:** *Cabin leaders or camp staff will discuss the rules, reasons for the rules and help the student reflect on the impact of their actions.*

**Student Reflection & Redirection:** *Cabin leader or camp staff will discuss the behavior, encourage the student to be reflective on their actions and guide the student to the appropriate behavior. Support the student in focusing their attention in an appropriate manner, replacing the undesired behavior. Teachers will be informed of the situation and consulted to help ensure a positive outcome. Teachers may participate and/or assist in these discussions.*

**Cooling Off & Make Amends** – *Staff will allow the student time to reflect on their behavior or just “cool off” until the situation can be discussed with the student. Staff will support the child in apologizing and make the situation right or return things to the way it was, if possible. Parents will be contacted and informed of the situation.*

**Parent Conference** - *Staff will take all possible steps to address student behavior at camp. Parents of students demonstrating lack of response or responsibility may receive a telephone conference with Camp and school staff to address the concerning behavior. Parents will receive a telephone conference with camp and school staff to address the concerning behavior. Further misbehavior may result in dismissal from camp.*

**Take Responsibility for the Action** – *Students unable to abide by camp rules, or those who are adversely affecting the experience of other children may experience a temporary loss of privileges or use of specific equipment. Students continuing to be challenged with following behavior expectations and rules may be denied further participation and sent home. **Parents will be responsible to come to camp and pick up their student.***



## Pre-Camp Checklist

### In Advance:

- Complete all online registration forms prior to the deadline
- Return a completed and signed LBUSD Field Trip Permission Slip
- Monitor student health daily prior to leaving for camp.

Students may be excluded for health conditions specific to residential camping requirements, including undiagnosed rashes, lice/nits, or other suspected communicable diseases.

- Medications must be provided to the school nurse with all** required documentation no less than the week before camp.

### Day of Departure:

- Bring your packed luggage bag, sleeping bag and backpack clearly marked with the student's name.
- All students will be screened for any possible communicable situations. (Ex. fever, sore throat, rashes, lice/nits.)
- Medications May Not be packed with student's gear.** All medications must be given to the school nurse the week before departure.
- Wear long pants** and closed toed shoes for walking/hiking



## Camp Packing List

**\*BE SURE YOUR NAME AND SCHOOL ARE CLEARLY VISIBLE ON ALL LUGGAGE.\***

Students are allowed up to 3 pieces of luggage. **\*Students should be able to carry all 3 pieces of luggage from the bus to their cabin in one trip\***

### Luggage #1: School type backpack/drawstring - CARRY THIS WITH YOU ON THE BUS

This backpack should stay with you at all times.

- Water bottle with your name on it
- Warm gloves
- Warm winter coat
- Long sleeved sweatshirt
- Small flashlight
- Extra Socks
- Jacket/Poncho (wind/waterproof)
- Warm winter hat

### Luggage #2: Suitcase (Carry-on)/Duffle Bag - ACCESSIBLE AFTER DINNER

It is suggested to place toiletry items inside of a large ziploc.

### Luggage #3: Sleeping Bag or Bedroll - ACCESSIBLE AFTER DINNER

One pillow and one sleeping bag placed in a large garbage bag (for weather protection). Label the bag with your name and school. Sheets and warm blankets are acceptable for a bedroll as well.

### Necessary Items:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lip Balm/moisturizer                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen (non-aerosol) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shoes (2 pairs), must be closed toed             | <input type="checkbox"/> Shower sandals          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Long Pants (No Shorts) (3 pairs)                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sweatshirts (2)         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Warm Jacket (1)                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Warm Pajamas            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> T-Shirts (5)                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Long sleeved shirt (2)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Warm gloves                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Underwear (8 pairs)     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beanie type hat(1)                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Deodorant (non-aerosol) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Socks,(cotton or wool is preferred) (6- 8 pairs) | <input type="checkbox"/> Hat with brim (1)       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toothpaste and Toothbrush                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Soap and Shampoo        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hair brush or comb                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Towel and washcloth     |

### Optional Items:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Laundry bag (for dirty clothes) | <input type="checkbox"/> A Book                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camera (disposable preferred)   | <input type="checkbox"/> A special stuffed animal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses                      |   |

**\*BE SURE TO WRITE YOUR NAME AND SCHOOL ON EVERYTHING.**

**LBUSD AND YMCA CAMP OAKES IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST OR STOLEN ITEMS.**

**WE WILL ATTEMPT TO RETURN ANY FOUND ITEMS.\***